

Hafa Adai!

\$15K bail for 8th man involved in COP theft. **PAGE 2**

HANMI occupancy at 45% in August 2024. **PAGE 3**

\$1

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GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN EVADED Palacios signs budget into law

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The CNMI has evaded a government shutdown with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios keeping his promise to timely sign the fiscal year 2025 budget bill into law.

Yesterday, Palacios officially signed into law House Bill 23-115 House Draft 1, House Substitute 1, Senate Substitute 1, Senate Substitute 2 (essentially the

CNMI's budget for FY25) with a few vetoes. The bill is now Public Law 23-26 "Appropriations and Budget Authority Act of 2025." **See PALACIOS on Page 4**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios yesterday officially signed into law House Bill 23-115 House Draft 1, House Substitute 1, Senate Substitute 2 (essentially the CNMI's budget for FY25) with a few vetoes. The bill is now Public Law 23-26 "Appropriations and Budget Authority Act of 2025."

CHCC CW staff affected by delayed visa processing

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s workforce is facing a shortfall as a number of its Commonwealth-Only

Transitional workers have been affected by delays in visa processing.

Previously, *Saipan Tribune* learned that about 17 CHCC personnel—specifically **See CHCC on Page 4**

DPS chief: K-9 handlers lost a family member

By CHRYSAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Anthony Macaranas dispelled conspiracy theories following the death of K-9 officers Beni and Boss, saying it was "inherently

See DPS on Page 4



Macaranas



CHRYSAL MARINO

Franko Deleon Guerrero delivers his rendition of Bruno Mars "Leave the Door Open" during the 2024 Voices of the Marianas Singing Competition grand finale last Saturday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan. Deleon Guerrero topped the inaugural season of the singing tilt.



CHRYSAL MARINO

Karlymae Lizama was announced as the 2024 Voices of the Marianas Singing Competition second place winner last Saturday at the show's grand finale at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.



CHRYSAL MARINO

Jason Lizama is the 2024 Voices of the Marianas Singing Competition third place winner.

Franko Deleon Guerrero tops 2024 VOTM

By SKYLEE SANTOS
santosskylee@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

With show-stealing performances, dazzling glimmer, and amazing vocalization, Franko Deleon Guerrero topped the 2024 Voice of the Marianas Singing Competition held last Saturday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan's Hibiscus Hall.

He immediately grabbed the attention of the jam-packed venue during the grand finale with his first song "Leave the Door Open" by Bruno Mars.

Setting the scene with an R&B genre, Deleon Guerrero **See FRANKO on Page 4**

INSIDE



BUSINESS

OHAS Boulangerie & Café celebrated its first year anniversary yesterday with a simple celebration attended by government officials led by Gov. Arnold I. Palacios as well dignitaries from the private sector.

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NATION

Authorities struggled to get water and other supplies to isolated, flood-stricken areas across the U.S. Southeast in the wake of Hurricane Helene as the death toll from the storm rose to nearly 100.

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LIFE & STYLE

Francis Ford Coppola's decades-in-the-making, self-financed epic "Megalopolis" flopped with moviegoers, while the acclaimed DreamWorks Animation family film "The Wild Robot" soared to No. 1 at the weekend box office.

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Local

\$15K bail for 8th man involved in COP theft

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
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CORRESPONDENT

Police officers successfully apprehended the eighth man involved in the Coral Ocean Point Resort burglary last Friday in Chalan Kanoa.

Skyler James Benavente, 36, appeared before Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday for his bail hearing at the Superior Court in Susupe. Facing charges of receiving stolen property and theft and conspiracy, the court imposed a \$15,000 cash bail on him.

Benavente was remanded to the Department of Corrections' custody until his preliminary hearing on Oct. 2, 2024 at 2:30pm. His arraignment will be on Oct. 7, at 9am.

According to court documents, on Sept. 10, 2024 at 7:10am, DPS officers responded to a reported theft of two golf carts at the Coral Ocean Resort in As Gonno.

Just minutes later, officers met with the security guard who had called for police assistance. The security guard alerted police that there were

two missing golf carts with unique rims with an estimated value of \$8,000 each. Officers also learned that an orange Black and Decker Angle Grinder worth \$175, a Green TIG welding machine with an estimated value \$1,000, and a portable welding machine worth \$300 were also stolen from the area.

On Thursday, Sept. 12, 2024 at 8am, DPS officers and detectives met with a concerned citizen who wanted to give information on the stolen golf carts. According to the concerned citizen, the evening of Sept. 8, 2024, they were with Cain Stanley Fitial (later incriminated for the incident as well) at Coral Ocean Resort beach side drinking alcoholic beverages. The concerned citizen overheard Fitial saying that he was going to burglarize Coral Ocean Resort, adding that in the afternoon of the Sept. 11, 2024, they were over at the residence of Anthony and Andrew Duenas in San Antonio and saw two golf carts belonging to Coral Ocean Resort, which they were able to identify by the Coral Ocean

Resort stickers still intact. The concerned citizen also said that he saw an orange tool box outside the Duenas residence.

On Sept. 16, 2024 at 3pm, DPS officers were showed surveillance footage dated, Sept. 9, 2024 at 4am, showing Fitial jumping the fence into the staging area of the golf carts, and shortly after being chased out of the compound by the greenskeeper.

The documents further state that on Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2024 Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio issued an eaves drop warrant for the confidential source to meet with Benavente, along with an undercover capacity to purchase the stolen golf cart. The very same evening the eaves drop warrant was executed by Criminal Investigation Bureau personnel and the confidential source was able to complete the purchase of the stolen golf cart at the Duenas compound.

At about 5:33pm, the undercover source along with the confidential source arrived at the Duenas compound located

in San Antonio. The confidential source reversed the vehicle behind the Duenas residence closer to the jungle area and exited the vehicle to meet with Benavente. Benavente along with three other male individuals, later identified as Dino Mettao, Andrew Duenas, and Terrence Cabrera, then walked toward the jungle and later exited with a golf cart.



Benavente

Another male individual, later identified as Brian Rios, came over to assist in loading the golf cart onto the trailer and covered it with a blue tarp. The confidential source then gave Benavente Drug Enforcement Task Force Official Advance Funds worth \$200 in payment for the golf cart. The golf cart was then procured as evidence.

The next day, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo signed a search warrant for the outside of the residence of Anthony and Andrew Duenas located along Batto Place, San Antonio. CIB detectives executed the search warrant on the same day.

As a result of the search, evidence collected on the site

were one golf cart plexiglass window with a back brace, a black damaged metal frame, a white golf cart roof with a retractable rain guard, and another white golf cart roof with a retractable rain guard but with two rear beams attached, a golf cart back brace, and a yellow Lastin Hansin Korea brand electric welder.

On Sept. 19, 2024, the items were positively identified by Coral Ocean Resort staff.

Documents further state that on Sept. 23, 2024 at 12:40pm, officers and detectives met with Fitial for an interview. Fitial admitted to stealing the golf carts at Coral Ocean Resort along with Aaron Cabrera. Fitial also led the officers and detectives back to Coral Ocean Resort, and the spot where he and Cabrera took two golf carts from. Fitial also added that he took two car batteries. Fitial also led the officers and detectives to Buchibuchi Drive where Cabrera hid the golf cart that he took.

Fitial showed officers a shortcut located in the Duenas compound in Afetnas, stating that he drove the golf cart in the shortcut down to Cabrera's father's place in San Antonio. He then led officers to a jungle

area located southeast of the Duenas residence and pointed where he parked the golf cart.

After an interview with Cabrera on Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2024, at his residence in Kolblerville, Cabrera also admitted to being involved in the stealing of the golf carts from Coral Ocean Resort. Cabrera stated that Anthony Duenas told him and Fitial to steal two golf carts at the Coral Ocean Resort. Cabrera stated that he and Fitial had drove both golf carts to a jungled area nearby Coral Ocean Resort after stealing them and parked one of the golf carts in the jungle, aligning with Fitial's story. Cabrera said he followed Fitial on the other golf cart and drove it down to the Duenas residence located in San Antonio and parked it in the jungle behind the residence. Anthony Duenas picked up the men up and dropped them back to the jungled area where they parked the first golf cart, just along Coral Ocean Resort. Cabrera and Fitial drove the cart down to the Duenas residence and parked it. Cabrera stated that Anthony Duenas gave him \$60 and half a gram of methamphetamine for payment for the two golf carts.

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HANMI occupancy at 45% in August 2024

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported 44.6% average occupancy rate among 11 member hotels for August 2024, a 16% decrease compared to 52.8% average occupancy among 11 hotels in August 2023.

A total of 29,024 of 65,013 available room nights sold during August 2024 compared to 34,146 of 64,595

available rooms sold in August 2023. The average room rate was \$143.17 compared to \$159.34 last August.

With the seasonal suspension of one daily flight starting this month by T'way from the primary source market of Korea and Jeju Air also announcing plans to drop one daily flight until December, HANMI has ini-

tiated discussions among all stakeholders to prevent further economic decline.

"While overall arrivals to the Marianas are higher so far this fiscal year compared to last, the last three months have seen a drop in both average occupancy and average room rates compared to 2023," said HANMI chair Dennis Seo. "Our board reached out to Gov.

[Arnold I.] Palacios earlier this month to express our dire concerns, and after a productive discussion with him, we're optimistic we can reverse this drop-off quickly with the buy-in of all partners."

Following HANMI's meeting with the governor, Seo also held informal meetings with T'way, Jeju Air, and Asiana Airlines in Seoul on Sept. 19.

"With the pledged support of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, the Marianas Visitors Authority, and our member hotels, the airlines appear willing to reconsider their flight suspensions this season. Now it's a matter of ensuring the verbal agreements reached are formalized," said Seo. "With fierce international competition, this strong show of support from the Marianas public and private sectors has made a very positive impression on our airline partners, which is good for our partnership in both the short and long term."

Seo added that the repressed Japan economy and unfavorable currency exchange, along with the lack of direct flights from mainland China will continue to stymie economic recovery until conditions change. As the Legislature deliberates on the Budget Act of Fiscal Year 2025, Seo also urged the full funding of the MVA in the new fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, 2024.

"The tourism industry is still struggling, and the MVA must remain a budgetary priority," said Seo. "In 2013 hotel investors of HANMI and the Legislature and the governor

mutually agreed to increase hotel occupancy tax from 10% to 15%, provided that the MVA would be able to keep its HOT allotment for the continued promotion of the destination. It's imperative to keep this funding intact for the use of the MVA and not siphon off the HOT for other purposes."

Hotels included in HANMI's monthly statistical report are Aqua Resort Club, Aquarius Beach Tower, Century Hotel, Coral Ocean Resort, GrandVrio Resort Saipan, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Kensington Hotel Saipan, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Saipan World Resort, and Surfrider Resort Hotel.

HANMI was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the Marianas. HANMI also makes regular charitable donations to support non-profit organizations and tourism-related government projects. HANMI membership is open to all qualified hotels and other lodging properties for tourists and affiliated business. Membership applications are available at www.saipanhotels.org. (PR)

Supreme Court to conduct Moot Court competition

The Supreme Court will host the 2nd Annual High School Moot Court Competition this December. The competition is open to any team of two students in grades 9-12 from across the Commonwealth, and interested schools are encouraged to sign up before the registration deadline this Friday, Oct. 4.

Participants will engage in a 10-week Moot Court program that culminates in a two-day tournament at Guma' Hustisia. The students will learn how to argue in a court of appeals by participating in workshops, drafting legal briefs, and presenting oral arguments. The live oral argument competition will take place on Dec. 5-6 and is open to the public. Students will compete in teams of two, representing their client on two different issues of law. Justices, judges and members of the NMI Bar Association will serve as panelists during the competition.

The champions, finalists, and semi-finalists will receive awards recognizing their achievement, and the winning



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The top teams from the 2023 local competition—Jenny Zhang, Yejin Son, Princes Habal, and Julia Taitano—stand with coaches and chaperones Jia Jin Xu, Stephen Woodruff, Patrick Quimby, and Paige Lehman on the University of California Santa Barbara campus after competing in the regional tournament on March 3, 2024.

team will compete at a regional tournament of the National Association of Moot Courts in the spring.

The inaugural moot court competition last year included nine teams in the oral argument competition. The champion and finalist teams, both from Marianas High School, represented the Commonwealth at the regional tournament at University of California, Santa Barbara in March 2024.

The champion team, Princes Habal and Julia Taitano, finished seventh in the region and earned a place at nationals the following month. Habal and Taitano ranked 32nd nationally in the first appearance by the Commonwealth in the National Association of Moot Court program.

Funding for the program has been provided by the Federal Programs Office of the Public School System, orga-

nized by the Supreme Court justices and staff.

Moot Court Competition organizers have been conducting outreach at local high schools to encourage participation from more schools. If you are interested in hosting an informational presentation this week, or would like to know more about the program before the registration deadline, email MootCourt@NMI-Judiciary.gov. (PR)



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RFP24-CHCC/ CAS-029

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 25, 2024 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)


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INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.HEALTH). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY





REGULAR BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41 § 11, the Northern Mariana Islands Museum of History & Culture hereby gives notice that a Regular Board of Governors Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 3, 2024 at 9:00 AM at the Northern Marianas Humanities Council Conference Room in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Establish Quorum
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes: April 10, 2024 Meeting
5. Public Comments
6. Chairman's Report
7. Executive Director's Report
8. Executive Committee Report
9. Bylaws Committee Report
10. Old Business
11. New Business
 - a. Executive Committee Actions
 - i. Airconditioning Repairs
 - ii. Vehicle Repairs
 - iii. New NMI Museum Logo
 - iv. Website Redesign
 - b. ED Goals & Priorities
 - c. FY 2025 Budget
 - d. Board Quarterly Meeting Schedule
12. Executive Session
13. Miscellaneous/Announcements
14. Adjournment

/s/ Leo Pangelinan, Chairperson
NMI Museum Board of Governors





NORTHERN MARIANAS TECHNICAL INSTITUTE
P.O. Box 504880 Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No.: (670) 235-6684

Board of Trustees
Regular Board Meeting
October 2, 2024 | 5:00PM
NMTECH Conference Room

Meeting Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Adoption of Agenda - October 2, 2024
- III. Adoption of Meeting Minutes - July 9, 2024
- IV. Public Comments
- V. Old Business
 - A. NMTECH Foundation
 - B. Board Comments on Policy Review
 - C. Addressing FY 2021 Audit Recommendations
 - D. Bank Signatories
- VI. New Business
 - A. CEO Reports
 1. FY 2024 Financial Overview | FY 2025 Outlook
 2. 2024 Enrollment Analysis
 3. FY 2025 Action Plan
 4. FY 2026 Budget Proposal
 - B. New Programs - Spring 2025
- VII. Committee Updates
 1. EDA Project Updates
 2. ACFEF Advisory Committee
- VIII. Executive Session
- IX. Announcements
- X. Adjournment



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA)
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold a **Special Board Meeting** on **Wednesday, October 2, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.** The meeting will be held in the Meeting Room located at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI. The following agenda will be considered, and public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - A. CALL TO ORDER
 - B. ROLL CALL
 - C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)
- III. SPECIAL MEETING ITEM(S)
 - A. CPA BOARD RES. NO. 2024-03: DESIGNATION OF SIGNATORIES
- IV. MISCELLANEOUS / ANNOUNCEMENT(S)
 - A. APPOINTMENT OF TREASURER
 - B. APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS
- V. ADJOURNMENT

/s/

RAMON A. TEBUTEB
Chairman

*All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.
A time limit may be imposed.
Video conferencing is also available via Zoom. Zoom link: Meeting ID: 898 0318 0837 • Passcode: 573227

FRANKO

From page 1

skillfully displayed his own individuality on stage with stunning looks and musical notes.

His second performance was sentimental as he sang ABBA’s “Winner Takes It All.” The ballad perfectly demonstrated by his take on the song had him stand out from the event and gave the audience an even more joyful show, giving them a peek into his persona.

“Part of the criteria was entertain-

ment and I’d seen that we were all seen but I wanted to be different,” he said in an interview after the show. True to his statement, he had outdone himself with an unforgettable performance and had shown his talent that night.

Also having the audience enthralled was runner-up Karlymae Lizama after one of her touching performances, “You Complete Me” by Nesian Nine.

From the first performance, Lizama had the audience hook, line, and sinker with her powerful vocal

range and emotional song choices that had her connecting with her audience with Kelly Clarkson’s “Piece By Piece.”

That night, she showed the judges and the audience her vulnerable side by performing her first and second songs without her ukelele.

In her second performance, she decided to showcase an original song “On Top of The World” written for her loved ones supporting her in this competition, showing her appreciation in the grand finale.

In an interview with her and her

parents, Ben and Johanna Lizama shared, “In a sense, we knew,” stating they never doubted their daughter’s talent and performance she did. When asked about her song choices, Lizama stated, “I just have my heart and mind set on it,” and it was showcased excellently.

Coming in at third place was Jason Lizama with his sweet-sounding melodies. Performing “Sway” by Michael Buble, Jason presented his amiable personality and even danced along with his song entertaining the audience. His personality displayed with his performance giving the judges a feel of how his persona is.

“I just thought we’d maybe all like to dance before we got back to judging again” is what he said on stage after performing “Sway” while he did the cha-cha, encouraging the audience to get up and dance along, sharing a carefree moment from the stressful weight of the competition. Singing jazz songs like his second performance, “My Way” by Frank Sinatra, Jason’s voice was melodic and smooth which was perfectly executed with his song choices. Jason’s cheery attitude gave the audience a sense of familiarity and was contagious with his smile, his aura brightened the room and his performance was even more jolly.

Save the Music CNMI Foundation’s initial foray—they rebranded after helping organize Marianas Got Talent last year—started with the playing of the national and CNMI anthem led by Bernice Sabino and Sebastian Tajibmai, along with the award-winning Saipan Southern Color Guard team, and an opening prayer from Rev. Danny.

Foundation president Arlene Reyes then thanked her team and shared their plans for future events for the VOTM such as their Harmony in the Community event on Oct. 26 in Kagman. It will celebrate the youth’s time and she encouraged elementary, junior high school, and high school students to join the event.

The grand finale of Voice of the Marianas Singing Competition then began in earnest.

In the first round beginning with the judge’s choice of artist, each contestant performed their pick of the song based on the artist they were assigned to. Every performance gave an extraordinary showcase of each contestant’s talents and provides their uniqueness to the song.

Each contestant delivered unforgettable performances with a powerful blend of emotion and artistry. From the first to the last note, every performer provided their own unique twists to their songs with extraordinary vocal chords. Their personal stories weaved into each song, the venue was filled with their raw emotion, leaving many in awe. Whether expressing joy, love, or sadness, the night was left for all to remember.

In the event, special and seasonal judges were recruited for the grand finale. Judges who joined that evening included seasonal judges John Basa, Lewella Marciano, Felix Rabauliman, Irene Paul, Vinni Orsini, and Lovelin Trinidad Flores. Special judges were Jonas Barcinas, Lucia DeLeon Guerrero, and Edward Diaz.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

PALACIOS

From page 1

Authority Act of 2025.”

The signing comes just days after Palacios promised that there would be no government shutdown this coming fiscal year.

“I applaud the Legislature for ensuring the budget for FY25 reached my desk with sufficient time for my review. The goal in this budget it to maintain fiscal stability at a time when resources are scarce, meet government obligations, and ensure public safety and welfare in our community,” he said.

In a statement from the Legislature, although they have yet to review the signed act, they are happy that the budget bill was signed in time to avoid a government shut down.

“I have not seen the official communication yet, but I’m glad that we have a budget and that we do not have to worry about a shutdown,” said House Speaker Edmund Vilagomez (Ind-Saipan).

“My office is waiting for its delivery and so I will be reviewing the governor’s message transmittal on the FY’25 budget. I am happy the FY 25 budget is signed into law before midnight which keeps government

employees working and government offices continuing its services for the community,” said Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan0.

The act, for the most part, keeps a lot of the same language in H.B. 23-115 HD1, HS1, SS2 with a few vetoes.

“In addition to the foregoing concerns, I have line-item vetoes several parts of the act which I have found unclear, ambiguous, or problematic either in their inconsistency with existing provisions of law, or in their implementation or imposition of additional steps that would hinder efficiency in government operations,” he said.

The vetoes encompass reporting requirements, pay adjustments, the hiring process, allotments to certain agencies, sanctions, and use of certain funds for certain programs,

The act also reflects the offset on utility arrears as agreed upon by the CNMI government and CUC recently, and the over \$27.1-million federal funding for the CNMI Medicaid program championed by Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (D-MP).

“In conjunction with other measures in the previous weeks, including the agreements to offset arrears between the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the Office of the Public Auditor, as well as federal legisla-

tion backed by Delegate Sablan to increase funding for CNMI Medicaid, the FY 2025 budget represents another major step in further stabilizing the Commonwealth’s finances. Going forward, the central government, CUC and CHCC will all be on more robust fiscal footing, allowing the government to maintain essential services, keep current with utilities payments, and facilitate compliance with CUC’s stipulated orders,” said the Office of the Governor in a statement.

Meanwhile, although the Legislature provided Palacios 100% reprogramming authority within the Executive Branch, funding was not identified for the retirees’ 25% benefit. In his transmittal letter to the Legislature, the governor urged the Legislative Branch to prioritize remedying this shortfall.

Lastly, Palacios states that the CNMI government will also be ensuring that the constitutional requirement for Department of Public Lands to remit funds to the Marianas Public Land Trust will be complied with going forward so MPLT can reinvest those monies to assist the Commonwealth’s development.

The governor vetoed the provision of the FY’25 budget bill which failed to abide by this constitutional provision.

CHCC

From page 1

nurses—were affected by a delay in CW-1 processing due to denials of Temporary Labor Certificates.

TLCs are certificates granted by the U.S. Department of Labor to essentially allow an employer to process CW-1 visas. To acquire a TLC, employers must first demonstrate that they have exhausted all efforts to hire local workers for specific job categories but are unable to hire enough local workers therefore they need foreign workers to fill in the gaps.

According to CHCC spokesperson Lee Tenorio, these CHCC staff have had to return to their home country until TLCs are approved by the U.S. Department of Labor.

“We regret that there were several staff with CW-1 visas affected by delayed processing. Unfortunately, this means staff would have to return back to their home country until processing is approved by the U.S. Department of Labor,” said Tenorio.

However, CHCC is committed to reinstating these staff members as soon as possible.

“The CHCC is committed to reassuring the CNMI and CHCC community that we aim to reinstate the af-

fected staff as soon as they are legally permitted to do so, provided they are still willing to return,” he said.

In the meantime, CHCC is addressing the labor shortfall.

“In the meantime, the CHCC has implemented alternative staffing solutions to maintain the quality of patient care” he said.

In related news, private companies have also been facing similar hurdles with TLCs being denied left and right.

According to local manpower agencies, they have received endless calls from private companies like hotels, restaurants, construction companies, stores, and more asking for help with TLCs as they were not granted.

However, even local manpower agencies who are well versed in TLC applications have also been denied TLCs with U.S. Labor becoming more meticulous in terms of their approval process.

“We were denied three TLCs back-to-back which would’ve been used to petition over 30 construction workers,” said a local manpower agency representative.

According to her, their agency has been approached by over 50 people on top of employers asking if they have any TLCs available in order to maintain their CW-1 status.

“This is troubling because this just means a lot of foreign laborers will have to go home ASAP without security of when they will be able to return. This will also negatively impact local businesses as there will be a large shortfall in workers,” she said.

The CNMI-only transitional worker program, otherwise known as the CW-1 Program, will be terminated in December 2029, and the “Temporary Need Exemption” for certain H2B workers in Guam and the CNMI will also be terminated in December 2029.

The CW-1 Program has a cap of 13,000 workers—a cap that is reduced annually by 1,000 workers.

In fiscal year 2025, the CW1 cap shall be limited to 9,000 workers and does not authorize the hiring of construction and extraction occupations.

Currently, there are approximately 5,000 CW1 workers in the CNMI and the CNMI may need as many 15,000 foreign workers to meet the demands of the growing economy and the development of new industries.

Currently, Guam has over 5,500 H2B workers, but needs approximately 15,000 foreign workers or more to meet the demands of the local construction industry, tourism industry, the military buildup, and the development of new industries

DPS

From page 1

tragic” and was like losing a family member for their handlers.

“Recent criticisms following the loss of our canine police dogs overlook the critical role their handlers have developed with their canine partner. The bond between a police officer and their canine is unparalleled and unbreakable. Built on trust, loyalty, and love, this partnership is a testament to the bravery and devotion of both humans and animals. Their partnership transcends mere colleagues, it’s a deep-seated familial tie. A bond that extends far beyond duty hours, with canines often becoming integral members of the officers’ families,” he said during a media conference yesterday at DPS headquarters in Susupe.

Macaranas added that the death of the K-9 officers also hit their handlers hard and that they don’t deserve the criticism from the public they’re currently receiving.

“The loss of a canine partner is a devastating blow, leaving an unfillable void, most especially for their handlers. We must acknowledge that the death of our canines had also deeply affected our officers. Between the criticisms the officers would face and being convicted by public opinion, DPS and its command staff acknowledges the well-being of our officers, who had lost a family member.”

To this end, the police commis-

sioner said available help was extended to the K-9 handlers.

“Immediate peer support, counseling, and time for grief was afforded, to include access to professional mental health services. Our commitment to officer well-being is unwavering, acknowledging the lasting impact of losing a partner and friend. We recognize and honor this extraordinary relationship, acknowledging the sacrifices made by both officers and canines in service to their community.”

Macaranas also said that police investigation on the case continues, despite the handlers still in mourning.

“As commissioner of Public Safety, I have always stand for transparency. In light of what had transpired on Sept. 8, 2024, an investigation into the tragic death of our canines is being conducted, with our department following strict protocols to ensure a thorough and unbiased inquiry. Our top priority is uncovering the facts surrounding this loss. Additionally, procedures and protocols are under review to identify potential improvements. We appreciate public understanding and patience during this difficult time. We also appreciate the community’s empathy and understanding, acknowledging the invaluable contributions of our canine heroes.”

Last Sept. 8, Beni and Boss succumbed to heat exhaustion after the air-conditioning unit inside the car they were left in by their handlers failed. DPS then held a small private burial ceremony for them last Friday.

PSS names 5 Teacher of the Year finalists

Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho and Human Resources officer Lucretia B. Deleon Guerrero led the Public School System in announcing the five finalists for the 2025 CNMI Teacher of the Year award.

At the same time, 16 school-level outstanding educators from the various public elementary, middle, high schools and Head Start/Early Head Start Program were also named, praising them for excelling in their respective learning communities.

The five finalists are Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School's 2025 Teacher of

the Year Patricia Jane DLG. Muna; Oleai Elementary School Teacher of the Year Cristina Mae B. Ruiz, William S. Reyes Elementary School Teacher of the Year Yeji Lee, Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Teacher of the Year Marylyn Y. Tabuena, and Marianas High School Teacher of the Year Darlene P. Aldan.

Camacho described all the outstanding educators as champions of public education.

"The impact that our public school teachers have had on the lives of our students is something we keep hearing about. They personally tell

these stories, as do their parents, our school administrators and other stakeholders, as well as many members of the community, and these are stories we hear on a daily basis. These educators devote their lives to students success, according to Camacho.

"Encouraging every child to reach their full potential by helping them recognize something within themselves, these educators and classroom teachers support the learning and success of our public school students," Camacho said. "They are all sources of inspiration for us."

Camacho added, "I am incredibly proud that our PSS is the home of committed and passionate champions of public education."

Deleon Guerrero said the five finalists were chosen from the 21 outstanding educators that represented all public elementary, middle, and high schools, including

the Head Start/Early Head Start Program throughout the commonwealth.

Selecting the state-wide PSS Teacher of the Year begins with each elementary, middle, high school, and Head Start/Early Head Start Program selecting their respective teacher of the year through a competitive and rigorous process.

From that list, each school submits their school-level winner to the Office of the Commissioner-Human Resources Office, explains Deleon Guerrero.

Using a stringent and rigorous criterion, the PSS-HRO identifies five finalists for the overall PSS Teacher of the Year. A special committee comprised of representatives from all sectors in the community is chosen as an ad hoc selection committee that selects the state-level winner.

School-level winners
Camacho and Deleon Guer-

rero also announced the 16 school-based 2025 Teacher of the Year winners.

The outstanding school-level teachers of the year are: Patrick John M. Alepuyo is Teacher of the Year for Garapan Elementary School, Ivan Jon D. Garces for Koblerville Elementary School, Marciliano Jose M. Castro for San Vicente Elementary School, Juvy M. Taitano for Kagman Elementary School, Chavelyn P. Epity for Tinian Elementary School, Emmylou A. Hocog for Sinapalo Elementary School, Gordon R. Salas, Jr. for Chacha Oceanview Middle School, Acelia B. Castro for Tanapag Middle School, Monica D. Pangelinan for Hopwood Middle School, Deana Sylveria P. Villgoomez for Dandan Middle School, Regina C. Palacios for Tinian Middle School and High School, Sabrina Fran D. Calvo for Dr. Rita

Hocog Inos Junior Senior High School, Joseph C. Weaver for Saipan Southern High School, Meena T. Benavente for Kagman High School, Joan Arlene T. Reyes for Da'ok Academy, and Joann T. Babauta for Head Start/Early Head Start Program.

The PSS overall teacher of the year winner, and all the 16 school-level 2025 Teachers of the Year will be honored during the Education Celebration of PSS in November.

The overall state winner will also compete for the National Teacher of the Year.

"I am just so proud of our teachers. They are all our children's and our community's champions," said Camacho.

PSS will celebrate its 36th year anniversary celebration as an autonomous education system as a result of the enactment of Public Law 6-10 or the "Education Act of 1988." (PR)

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence invites the community to come together this October in support of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

A month-long series of events is planned to raise awareness, support victims and survivors, and spark conversations about domestic violence. This year's campaign, "Solidarity for Safety," with the tagline "Join the Movement to End Domestic Violence," emphasizes the importance of everyone's shared effort in eliminating domestic violence.

To launch Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Proclamation Signing Ceremony will be held on Thursday, Oct. 3, 2024, at 10am in the Royal Taga Ballroom at Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

Those unable to attend in person can still tune in as the event will be live-streamed on Facebook in collaboration with KUAM. During the ceremony, the recipient of the 2024 Bridge of Light Award will be announced, recognizing an individual who has made notable contributions to ending domestic violence and sexual assault in the CNMI.

"A Bridge of Light Awardee embodies the movement to end violence in the CNMI and serves as a beacon of hope," said Kiki I. Benjamin, associate director of NMCADSV.

"Their dedication and impact inspire others to join us in creating a safer environment for all."

Following this event, a Day of Prayer will take place at St. Jude Parish on Sunday, Oct. 6, 2024. Masses will be held at 6am, 8am, and 10am. All faith-based denominations are invited to address domestic violence within their worship services and offer prayers and support for victims and survivors.

The month continues with one of NMCADSV's signature events, the Day of Unity, on Saturday, Oct. 12, 2024,

from 11am to 4pm at the CPA Airport Field. This family-friendly gathering will feature a variety of fun children's activities and games, partner agency booths, and cultural performances. Attendees can also enjoy delicious food and drink vendors, making it an opportunity to connect, raise awareness, and show support for victims and survivors.

Building on this spirit of solidarity, the annual Purple Wave, Walk, & Roll will take place on Purple Thursday, Oct. 17, 2024, featuring the Men's Walk Against Domestic Violence. We encourage everyone to wear purple to show support for victims and survivors and raise awareness. The event will be held at the San Antonio Basketball Court, starting with registration at 4:30pm, followed by a roadside waving at 5pm, and a walk through the village at 5:30pm. Participants are welcome to enjoy free poster-making, face painting, food and drink vendors, and free 2024 DVAM T-shirts, available while supplies last.

In addition to these meaningful events, NMCADSV will host a radio show throughout October in partnership with KKMP, airing every Wednesday morning at 8am on 92.1 FM. Each show will feature guest panelists who will engage in important discussions on topics related to domestic violence in our community.

For more details about the events and updates, please visit NMCADSV's social media platforms @EndViolenceNMI on Instagram and Facebook, or reach out directly at (670) 234-3878 or via email at info@endviolencenmi.org.

If you or someone you know is experiencing any form of violence, assistance is available. Please call 911 for immediate emergency support or contact the 24/7 Karidat Victim Hotline at (670) 234-5100. (PR)

Anti-Tobacco Wellness Program on Tinian marks milestone in community health

Since its inception in 2015, the Anti-Tobacco Wellness Program on Tinian has been a beacon of health advocacy, fostering collaboration between the Tinian Mayor's Office and Department of Commerce under the dedicated leadership of director Mary Susan Perez.

This program serves as a vital platform to educate the community on danger to tobacco use while promoting holistic well-being encompassing physical, mental and emotion health.

Celebrating its remarkable ninth year journey, the program has been consistent engagement from individual across diverse age and ethnic groups. Its presence at annual festival on Tinian has been instrumental in inspiring community members to adopt healthier lifestyles and stay active.


The ninth-year anniversary celebration of Anti-Tobacco Wellness Program on Tinian took place last Sept. 28, at the main pavilion at Jones Beach. The event en-

gaged the platform for raising awareness about tobacco's detrimental impacts and advocating for wellness in all aspect of life.

For those looking actively participate and support the cause, weekly schedules have been organized. Every Saturday from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at Natibu Park and Sunday from 10:30am to 11:30am offer opportunities for community members to engage in fitness activities and learn more about maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Adding a touch of community spirit, a recent event featured a delightful roasted cow shared with attendees, symbolizing unity and shared commitment toward building a healthier tomorrow for all residents on Tinian.

A special thank you to Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan and the Tinian delegation for all the support and to our Zumba instructor Michelle Olita and coach Angelo for their dedication and support throughout the past few years in this program. (PR)




REGULAR BOARD MEETING NOTICE


Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the **MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY** hereby gives **NOTICE** that a **REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING** will be held at the MVA Conference Room on **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2024, at 9:00 A.M.**

MEETING AGENDA

- 1) Preliminary Matters
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
 - d. Adoption of Minutes
 - i. August 21, 2024 - Regular Board Meeting
 - e. Adoption of Amended Minutes
 - i. February 28, 2024 - Special Board Meeting
- 2) Public Comments
- 3) Committee Reports
 - a. Finance Committee
 - i. FY2024 September Fund Status
- 4) New Business
 - a. FY2025 Operations Budget
 - b. RFP for Office Space Lease
- 5) Old Business
- 6) Executive Session
- 7) Miscellaneous/Announcements
 - a. Other
 - b. Next Regular Board Meeting
- 8) Adjournment

/s/ Gloria Cavanagh
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors







DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO.: RFP24-GOV/OGM-42400113

SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 17, 2024 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"SAN ANTONIO INDOOR BASKETBALL COURT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT: ARCHITECTURE & ENGINEERING SERVICES"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12386, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MAY BE SENT TO ADMINISTRATOR OF OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT, MR. EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA JR. AT EPI.CABRERA@GOV.MP BY 4:30 P.M. CHST., OCTOBER 08, 2024.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-305, 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA JR.
STATE ADMINISTRATOR, OGM

/s/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS



Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Florida's new sex-ed policy forces ignorance, embraces blindness

Here's the official state policy for state leaders when it comes to educating its children about human reproduction: See no evil. Hear no evil. Speak no evil.

And pray for luck. Florida's kids are going to need it.

Because it's becoming clear that, to the leaders of the current regime, sex is evil. Even talking about sex is evil. Telling kids how to protect themselves against the consequences of sex? Also evil. Keeping accurate track of how many kids are having sex, how many are using contraceptives, how many feel pressured into intimacy or fear sexual violence? Evil. Evil. Evil. It's as if state leaders believe that if nobody talks about sex, having sex will never occur to Florida's adolescent hormone factories. And if they do indulge, the state Legislature has done its best to ensure that the worst possible consequence—a young life derailed by an unplanned pregnancy—often can't be resolved by terminating the pregnancy. And that any sexual behavior, or even discussion of sex, will be smeared with shame and condemnation.

This doesn't just hurt children while they are in school. It undercuts the ability of parents to convey a more realistic view of human sexuality to their children, by pushing a conflicting sex-is-bad rhetoric.

Meanwhile, the state has stopped collecting meaningful data about how students themselves feel about their own sexuality, along with in-depth examination of their experiences and views related to drug and tobacco use, violence and healthy living.

A dangerous denial

Thus, over the past two years, state leaders have methodically stripped much of the value from sex-education programs while blinding themselves to the consequences of their policy changes. Under the state's previous laws, school districts were required to stress abstinence as the best way to avoid pregnancy and other complications, but allowed to offer information on birth control, accurate depictions of reproductive anatomy and frank talk about concepts like "consent" and "abuse." Parents who wanted to shield their children's innocence could opt out of sex ed, but few did.

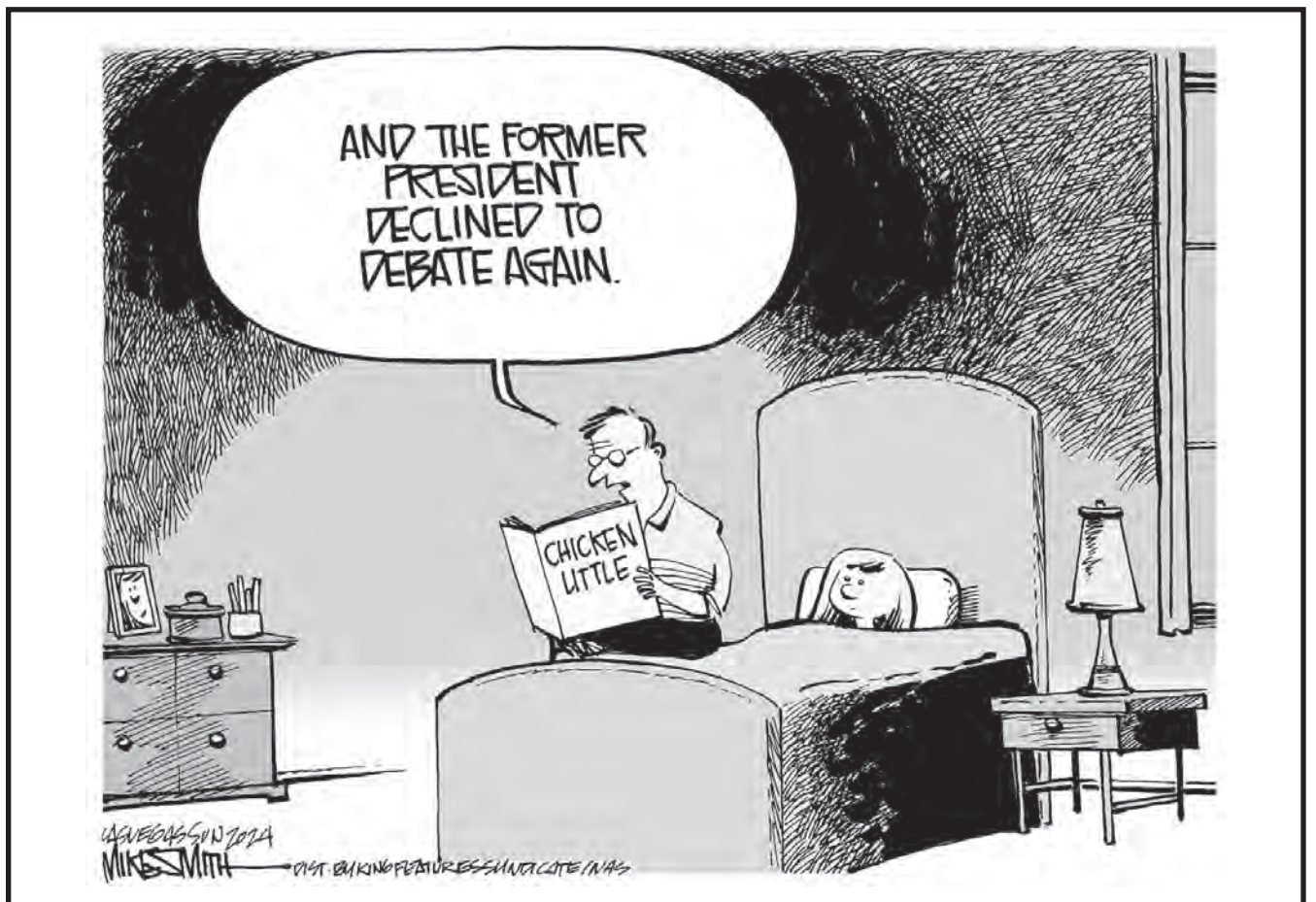
Under the current regime, most of those topics are now forbidden or pared down to descriptions so hasty and vague that they provide almost no guidance, district officials and education experts have told the Orlando Sentinel. Meanwhile, Florida's teens are bombarded with movies, TV shows and online media depicting sex in highly unrealistic terms.

Florida leaders are ignoring a massive body of research proving that comprehensive, factual instruction in all facets of sexuality—including contraception, protection against sexual violence, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and accurate descriptions of the spectrum of sexual orientation—works. These programs reduce teen pregnancy and STIs while boosting students' mental health and preparing them for healthy relationships. They can be highly effective in helping teens who struggle with their sexual identities. And they give courage to students who are being sexually exploited.

In states that lack good sex-ed programs (we're looking at you, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana and Alabama) teen pregnancy rates are much higher than they are in Florida. So are suicidal thoughts and attempts at self-harm among LG-BTQ+ youth. The list goes on and on.

Local school officials in some counties—including Orange and Broward—tried to fight back and retain a more comprehensive sex-education program. As the Sentinel's Leslie Post-

See FLORIDA on Page 7



Taylor Swift encouraged us to do election research. But how?

I'm an independent who has voted for Democrats and Republicans over the years, and what I appreciated most about Taylor Swift's presidential endorsement was that she didn't tell people what to think or who to vote for. What she did do was outline a thoughtful process and share where she came out.

What Swift didn't include was how we can do the same. She's certainly right that "now is a great time to do your research on the issues at hand and the stances these candidates take on the topics." I also agree with her that "your research is all yours to do, and the choice is yours to make." But how do we actually put that advice into practice?

Let's get real—we're all busy with our daily lives and not planning to become policy wonks before casting a ballot. To address this challenge, I've outlined a straightforward voter research process. It's a nonpartisan way to avoid being a low information/"vibes" voter and become more informed going into this important election.

Here are the five steps:

1. Decide what really matters to you. This is something that no one else should do for you—no candidate, no party, no social media influencer, no family member or dear friend. This is where you need to go deep and determine, as Swift puts it, which candidate "fights for the rights and causes I believe need a warrior to champion them."

She made her causes clear in her endorsement post, but what matters are yours. Top issues among American voters include the economy, health care, abortion, foreign policy, guns, inequality, crime and climate change. A recent Pew Research poll showed that most Kamala Harris and Donald Trump supporters have at least five priority issues, so don't feel you need to pick just one.

2. Find out where the candidates stand on what you care about most. The media should make this much easier than it is, but they spend too much time on the latest poll numbers and clickbait controversies. So you'll need to do some digging on your own, but I'll help by highlighting a few sources that are nonpartisan and feature information directly from the candidates themselves.

Ballotpedia is a very rich election resource and includes lots of data on candidate policy positions. It can be a lot to wade through, but if you just focus on your top issues it's very helpful. Another good resource is ProCon, which has an easy to understand table with links if you want to go deeper. The last one I'll mention is the National Voter's Guide by GuidesVote. Its wording feels left of center at times, but it has a well-designed layout and links to all candidate quotes and positions.

3. Find out what nonpartisan sources think about the impact

By BRIAN CLANCY

The Fulcrum

Brian Clancy is co-founder of Citizen Connect and a board member of the Bridge Alliance Education Fund.



the candidates' policies are likely to have. Here I'm just going to unleash you on the search engines. Only you know the issues that most matter to you. Simple searches like "which candidate would be better for the economy" will deliver lots of information and perspectives. I'd recommend ignoring the spin from either campaign and their known media cheerleaders, and instead stick to sources that aren't on a candidate's payroll or angling for a job in the administration.

4. Decide how much you trust each candidate to deliver on their promises and lead the nation wisely. Regarding the trust issue, you can certainly visit the fact-check websites, but it's ultimately your call. Basic questions you may want to ask yourself include: Who do you think is more likely to be honest with America during a national crisis? Who is more likely to consider unvarnished feedback from their advisors during high-risk decisions? Trust matters, but so does the viability of what they are proposing. So another thing you can explore is what nonpartisan sources think about the chances that each candidate's proposals will become a reality.

5. Make the best possible choice for you — and make sure to vote. Look, the above isn't going to make you an expert, but in just two to four hours you can significantly increase your issue literacy. BTW, this only works if you have an open mind and avoid what's termed motivated reasoning and the confirmation bias, e.g. only looking for information that supports what you already believe. So be open to learning something new and you'll feel much better about your vote this year. As Swift emphasized, none of this matters if you don't vote. She encouraged people to visit Vote.gov for help with registration and the entire voting process, and it's a solid option.

The bottom line is you don't need to be a diehard Swiftie or share her political priorities to recognize the wisdom of doing your own election homework.

Wishing you the best during this crazy election season and may God bless America no matter how it all plays out.

A personal reminiscence of Jimmy Carter

By CARL P. LEUBSDORF

The Dallas Morning News

On a December afternoon nearly 50 years ago, I got a phone call from Jody Powell, the press secretary to a little-known former governor of Georgia who had this bizarre notion he would be the country's next president.

After filling me in on his boss's plans for formally announcing his candidacy the next day, he asked if I'd like to speak to "Jimmy." Sure, I said, and he connected me with the soft-spoken Southerner whose presidential aspirations I'd been watching with skepticism and some amusement.

Then, Jimmy Carter explained to me, as he did to other doubters in the press and elsewhere, how he planned to get elected.

Often since, I've thought about that phone conversation with Carter and Powell, holed up in a nondescript Holiday Inn near the U.S. Capitol, seeking to persuade political writers like me to take his candidacy seriously.

As it turned out, Carter's rise from the hamlet of Plains, Ga. (pop. 683) to the White House was the most remarkable political story I ever covered—at least until Donald Trump's election. And the man whose 100th birthday we mark next week—three years after he and wife Rosalynn celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary—was probably the most unusual to win the presidency in the 20th century.

A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy who became a nuclear engineer, he left service to revitalize his family's rural Georgia peanut farm after his father died.

Though his 1970 gubernatorial campaign was hardly high-minded, once elected he helped erase vestiges of the state's segregationist past. As president, he helped launch the long process of bringing peace to the Middle East, an effort most of his successors have pursued, unfortunately with only mixed success.

During his lengthy post-presidential years, he has written

more than 30 best-selling books—his main source of income. A voice for human rights around the world, he has been a prod to succeeding presidents, both Democrats and Republicans.

Despite being afflicted with various forms of cancer, his family's scourge, he long ago became the nation's longest-lived president, still politically aware and hoping—son Chip said recently—to cast a ballot next month for another trailblazer, Vice President Kamala Harris.

Though highly intelligent, he was often politically tone deaf, seemingly believing that, since good would inevitably triumph over evil, political compromise was unnecessary. Often rigid, moralistic and humorless, he was as likely to glare at his most loyal aides as to praise them.

He correctly foresaw the Democratic Party needed to recapture the political center. But in the process, he sharpened the internal split with its liberals that contributed to his landslide re-election defeat in 1980.

He sought to strengthen the military and balance the budget. But he failed to cope with an oil shock sending inflation soaring and the 444-day detention of 60 U.S. diplomats by militants who had ousted Iran's longtime pro-American leader, Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

Unexpected events and a lot of luck helped Carter become the only Democrat to win the presidency between the 1960s and the 1990s.

Richard Nixon's resignation in the face of almost certain impeachment and conviction opened the way for an inexperienced moralist who wasn't a tricky politician and promised not to lie to the American people.

And George McGovern's disastrous 1972 defeat prompted Democrats to back a moderate Southerner who could bury the party's segregationist legacy.

His Democratic opponents helped.

When Washington Sen. Henry Jackson, backed by defense

hard-liners, and Alabama Gov. George Wallace passed up the New Hampshire primary, Carter occupied the center-right and, with just 28 percent, defeated his more liberal rivals.

Then, when the leading liberal hopefuls bypassed Florida, he ran to the left and defeated Wallace and Jackson. Along with his earlier success in the hitherto insignificant Iowa caucuses, those victories provided the political momentum to win the nomination, despite continued enmity from the party's establishment and a series of too-late primary challenges.

That fall, President Gerald Ford inadvertently gave Carter a crucial boost. Already weakened by his pardon of Nixon and Ronald Reagan's conservative challenge, Ford inexplicably declared in a nationally televised debate that Communist-controlled Poland was free—and repeated it several subsequent times.

In a political fluke akin to Trump's 2016 victory, Carter narrowly won. He restored (for one election) the Democrats' former Southern primacy and won Ohio by 11,000 votes and Hawaii by 7,000. Clinching the contest by carrying Mississippi at about 3:30 a.m. the next morning, he headed back from Atlanta to Plains.

Even in victory, however, Carter had difficulty being gracious. When a press bus took a wrong turn going to the airport, he sought to leave without them until aides dissuaded him.

But the delay enabled him to arrive in his little hometown as the sun rose and the morning television shows came on the air.

"I told you I didn't intend to lose," he told the hundreds who had waited all night around the old train station that served as his headquarters.

"I came all the way through, through 22 months, and I didn't get choked up until"—his voice broke, and he paused, too overcome with emotion to continue, dabbing a tear from his left eye before he willed himself to finish—"until I turned the corner and saw you standing here."

There were few dry eyes. It was a scene none of us ever forgot.

Carl P. Leubsdorf is the former Washington bureau chief of the Dallas Morning News.

Preserve democracy, end the electoral college

November 5, 2024, might be the day the second U.S. woman presidential candidate from a major party wins the popular vote but loses the election. There have been five U.S. presidential elections where the candidate who won the popular vote did not become president. In each of these cases, the candidates who assumed office without the popular vote were wealthy, white men.

In the current race, as Texas legislator Jasmine Crockett reminded us, Vice President Kamala Harris has a resume while former President Donald Trump has a rap sheet. And, yet, due in part to the power of patriarchy, classism and white supremacy, the election is a tight race, polls show.

Three of the five presidential elections in the United States which were ceded to the loser of the popular vote happened in the 1800s. Then, in 2000, the first year I was eligible to vote for president, Al Gore won the popular vote with 48.4% to Bush's 47.9%. And yet, because of the electoral college, Bush won. And, of course, in 2016, Hillary Clinton, the first female presidential candidate of a major party ticket, took 48.2% of the popular vote compared to Trump's 46.2%, and he was declared the winner.

Trump wreaked havoc during his term as president. He stacked the Supreme Court with conservative justices who went

on to overturn Roe v. Wade and end affirmative action in college admissions. The court has also allowed unhoused people to be fined and jailed for sleeping outside, reduced the power of federal agencies to ensure food and drug safety and protect the environment and granted presidents broad immunity from criminal prosecution.

The stakes in this election are high in other ways. We have seen increased climate destabilization, floods, fires, heat waves, hurricanes, and other natural disasters. There is discussion of nuclear threat, prolonged humanitarian crises, denied access to health care for women and gun deaths in children's schools.

The electoral college is a racist relic that no longer serves any legitimate purpose. A system that undercuts the power of any person's vote needs to change. We have options.

First, states can bypass the electoral college by signing onto the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC) requires that participating states put all of their electoral college votes towards the candidate that takes the popular vote. To date, 18 states have adopted the NPVIC; it needs 61 more electoral votes to go into effect.

Second, within the electoral college system, two states, Maine and Nebraska, forgo the winner-takes-all norm and tally their

detailed surveys from students about their attitudes and histories with all kinds of dangerous behavior, including smoking, drug and alcohol abuse, unhealthy diets and multiple facets of sexuality. It also asked teens if they'd ever feared violence or been pressured into intimacy. The survey's matter-of-fact tone almost certainly bolstered students' trust that their answers would be anonymous; follow-up research has shown that students provide accurate responses to questions, even those that are detailed and possibly uncomfortable.

Across the country, states have used this survey as a way to identify growing problems—or shrinking ones. For example, the survey recently revealed that across the nation, young people are losing interest in electronic tobacco-delivery systems such as vaping. Is Florida part of that laudable trend? State leaders have no idea. No Florida students were surveyed.

The state did come up with its own survey of high-school youth. But it's lacking any of the details that the national effort explored. Only 54 of the 223 questions on the most recent survey have anything to do with risky behaviors, and many of those are worded in ways that could influence students' candor. A copy of the "Florida Specific Youth Survey" includes only three questions about sex—whether the student has ever engaged in sexual intercourse, whether they are "aware of the benefits of abstinence" and "aware of the consequences of teen pregnancy." Not surprisingly, given the judgmental nature of the latter two questions, answers to the first are suspect—and fall far below na-

tional averages on the more comprehensive federal survey. (For the record, 26% of Florida high-school students said they'd had sex, compared to 32% of students nationwide. We find that sus, as the kids might say.)

Advocates have pointed out that in Florida's new survey, the voices of the most marginalized youth—including LGBTQ students and those with disabilities—are almost absent.

The rationale for dropping out of the youth risk study was never very clear—but many suspected it was because Florida leaders wanted to be able to pretend that their policies were good for youth. That the "don't say gay" laws didn't increase depression among LGBTQ+ students. That banning books with descriptions of racism or sexuality made students less racist, or likely to have sex. That preaching abstinence-only in sex-ed classes would curb recklessness among teens—even when every shred of credible evidence suggests the opposite. Eventually, however, Florida will have to face reality as rates of teen pregnancy and STIs increase, and the damage wrought by official ignorance tumbles from one generation to the next.

We have to assume that Florida's leaders know what their policies will do to Florida's children. That they have read the realms of scientific studies suggesting a strong link between accurate information and responsible behavior. That they are OK with burdening the futures of (officially uncounted) youth in order to score political points.

It's enough to make you rethink the definition of the word "evil."

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By MEGAN THIELE STRONG

Progressive Perspectives

Megan Thiele Strong is a sociology professor at San Jose State University and a Public Voices Fellow at the The OpEd Project. This column was produced for Progressive Perspectives, a project of The Progressive magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.



vote as a plurality. In these two states, the electoral college votes more accurately reflect the votes of the states' residents.

Finally, in the long-term, we can eliminate the electoral college. In a nation which prides itself on freedom and democracy, we need to be able to vote directly for our national leader. We need to take our voting system and our vote seriously while our vote still counts.

I am convinced that Harris will win the popular vote. I am not convinced that that will be enough for her to take office as president. We do not need to wait until the election is over to push for change. In the short-term, we can contact our representatives to encourage state officials to endorse the NPVIC. In the long-run, we can work to eliminate the electoral college.

FLORIDA

From page 6

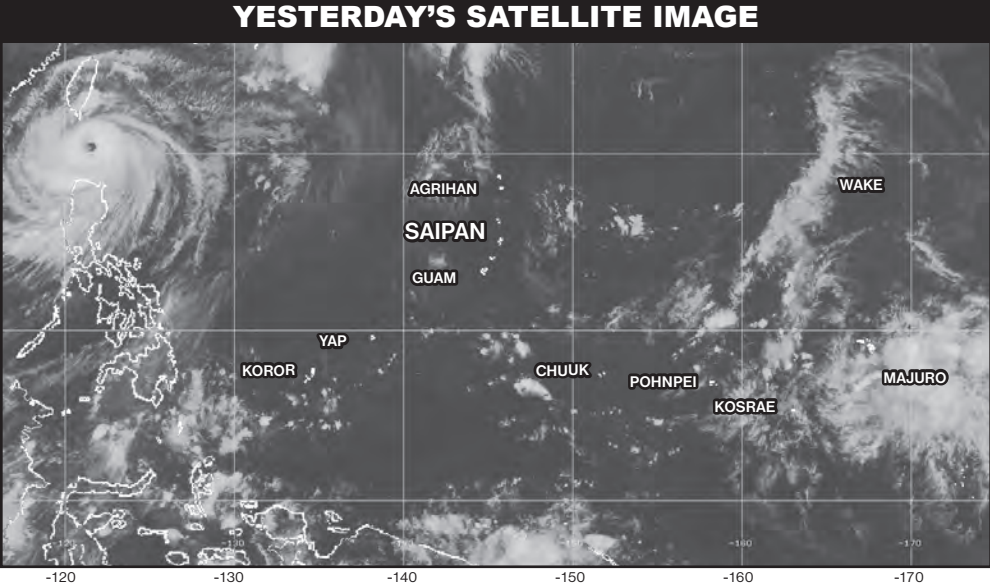
al reported in July, leaders found themselves blocked by state officials who never approved the plans counties submitted. In response, Orange County and a few others didn't teach sex ed at all in the 2023-24 school year. But in response to the latest edict from state education officials—one that has not, curiously enough, been put in writing—the holdout counties are falling in line. Orange County has already agreed to use a curriculum that almost completely eliminates discussions of effective contraception, replacing it with lengthy discourses on abstinence—and leaves out much of the factual information students need to deal with issues they see on a daily basis. Broward County will be rendering its decision soon.

Hiding evidence of failure

If Florida falls in line with other states, it can expect to see troubling data trends that include increases in the number of children with unrealistic or dangerous attitudes toward sex (along with other risky behaviors). In response to that, the state has simply chosen to stop looking, quietly pulling back from the data-gathering that might uncover the impacts of their folly. In 2022, Florida formally dropped out of the Centers For Disease Control's Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, which collected

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	
87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	78°



PICTURE TIME: 5:26 AM SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Only minor tweaks were needed for the forecast. Overall, the Mariana's can expect to see a mostly dry day today. A trade-wind trough may come through around the middle of the week. Winds are anticipated to be light to moderate and seas are expected to fairly benign at 3 to 5 feet. For the far Northern islands of the Marianas, ASCAT shows gentle to moderate winds near Pagan, Alamagan, and Agrihan. Satellite shows Mostly cloudy skies. Isolated showers are anticipated today. Skies are anticipated to clear as the day progresses and TS Jebi pulls its monsoon-like tail farther away from these islands. Overall, Fair weather is anticipated to return today and remain for the next few days.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84° / 76°	
Yap	Sunny	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°	
Kosrae	Cloudy	87° / 77°	
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:06 PM
Wednesday	6:06 AM	6:05 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:04 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:04 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:03 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:42 AM	5:13 PM	-
Wednesday	5:27 AM	5:46 PM	-
Thursday	6:13 AM	6:18 PM	-
Friday	6:59 AM	6:52 PM	-
Saturday	7:46 AM	7:28 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Fair	65° / 52°	
Beijing	Fair	79° / 58°	
Hong Kong	Fair	91° / 79°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 74°	
London	Showers	64° / 48°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	88° / 65°	
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 78°	
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	59° / 46°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°	
New York	Cloudy	63° / 61°	
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	77° / 59°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Busan	Fair	82° / 66°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	75° / 54°	
Salem	Mostly Sunny	90° / 67°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	64° / 56°	
Seoul	Sunny	84° / 64°	
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	78° / 70°	
Washington, DC	Cloudy	71° / 67°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:04 AM	Low Tide	0.74	
6:33 AM	High Tide	1.70	
1:04 PM	Low Tide	0.34	
7:19 PM	High Tide	1.80	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5	UA825	5:30PM	10:00PM	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Sep 2-8	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 6, 7 Sep 9-15	7C3472	11:00AM	4:40PM	Sep 15-18
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily Sep 16-22	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	7 Sep 1
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 7 Sep 23-29	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 7 Sep 2-8
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	1, 5, 6, 7 Sep 9-15
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily Sep 16-22
7C3471	5:50PM	9:30PM	Sep 15-18				1, 7 Sep 23-29
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX77	3:05AM	6:00AM	1, 5	7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily
				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
				HX76	6:25PM	1:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

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Business

OHAS Boulangerie & Cafe marks 1st anniversary

By **RACQUEL H. FLOYD**
 raxfloyd@gmail.com
 CORRESPONDENT

OHAS Boulangerie & Café celebrated its first anniversary yesterday with a simple celebration attended by government officials led by Gov. Arnold I. Palacios as well dignitaries from the private sector.

In his congratulatory speech, Palacios said he was surprised when the high-end bakery opened last year during the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and at the height of challenging times of doing business on the island.

"When I was told last year that they were thinking of opening something similar to their bakery in Korea, I said 'really [you're] going to do that right after COVID-19 and with business activities still being slow?' So, you know, a lot of investments are usually done when the fiscal situations are not doing well, but I know that Micronesia Resort



Attendees and staff pose for a photo during the private first anniversary celebration of OHAS Boulangerie & Cafe yesterday morning in Garapan.

Inc. took the chance and the risk, and with their hard work, we are here today to celebrate the one-year [anniversary of OHAS Boulangerie & Café]. I want to congratulate you for being here for the community. Many members of the community have continued to enjoy the bakery products [that

you have]," said Palacios.

E-Land Group executive managing director Dennis Seo, meanwhile, used as an example OHAS Boulangerie & Café's evolved relationship with Cha Café and how collaboration between neighbors and businesses lead to mutual benefits.

He explained that businesses benefit from increased foot traffic and customers and the same is true with OHAS Boulangerie & Café and Cha Café's relationship, stating that many customers from the former buy drinks at the latter and many customers of the latter buy pastries and bakery products at the former.

Seo also expressed his gratitude to the administration of Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang for their support. He added that OHAS Boulangerie & Café is dedicated to providing high-quality bakery products to the community and that they value customer feedback to constantly strive to improve their services.

Meanwhile, Apatang mentioned how he enjoys the unique sweets at OHAS Boulangerie & Café so much that he has to make sure to have his blood sugar checked before consuming all the sweets, which brought laughter to the crowd.

Apatang then reiterated his request that E-Land Group open a second branch in the southern part of Saipan.



From left, Fr. Rey Rosal, House Speaker Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, E-Land Group executive managing director Dennis Seo, and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang pose after the cutting of the cake.



The cutting of the cake concluded the event led by Gov. Arnold Palacios, Lt. Gove. David Apatang, and E-Land Group executive managing director Dennis Seo.

House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan, meanwhile, jokingly answered Apatang's request by saying that E-Land Group made the correct move by opening OHAS Boulangerie & Café at Precinct 3, his district, which drew more laughs.

Villagomez then congratulated OHAS Boulangerie & Café for opening during challenging times for the local economy.

"I really appreciate you all for opening, especially in this time of recovery. So, I just

want to say congratulations and cheers and hopefully I can come back here on your 10th anniversary," he said.

Margie Rodgers served as the mistress of the ceremony with Fr. Rey Rosal officiating the blessing of the food. The event was concluded with the cutting of first anniversary cake adorned by strawberries by Palacios, Apatang, and Seo.

The event was also attended by Department of Labor Secretary Leila Staffler, Saipan Chamber of Commerce Joe C. Guerrero, among others.

China factory surveys show economy weakening, as Beijing steps up support

China's economy weakened further in recent weeks, according to surveys released Monday, signaling the need for more support as the government ratchets up stimulus.

The Caixin purchasing managers survey showed new manufacturing orders fell at the fastest pace in two years in September.

"Operating conditions in China's manufacturing sector deteriorated in September after improving during August," the report said. "Furthermore, firms lowered their hiring and purchasing activity."

market expectations. The issue of insufficient effective domestic demand

remains prominent, with significant pressure on employment and weak

An official survey released by the National Bureau of Statistics showed a less drastic decline but it marked a fifth straight month of contraction. The purchasing managers index was at 49.8 in September, up from a six-month low of 49.1 in August. The index is on a scale where figures above 50 indicate expansion.

The survey showed that factory output rose while new orders fell.

Chinese stock markets surged Monday, reflecting enthusiasm over a barrage of policy measures announced

last week, including lower interest rates and smaller down payment requirements for mortgages and a cut in required bank reserves.

"There is no doubt that the coordinated and emphatic policy stimulus measures announced by Beijing have justifiably invoked optimism," Tan Boon Heng of Mizuho Bank in Singapore said in a commentary.

The main index smaller market in Shenzhen soared 8.2% while the Shanghai Composite index jumped 5.7%

"The stimulus package announced last week should help shore activity over the coming months," Gabriel Ng of Capital Economics said in a report. But he noted that imbalances between excess supply of many products versus weak demand persist. And trade measures against China, such as higher tariffs on electric vehicles and other goods, also will weigh on the economy.

"In this environment, a meaningful cyclical recovery would require sizeable fiscal stimulus," he said. "There has yet to be any official announcement on fiscal support, though some media reports suggest that one could come soon."

Over the weekend, Beijing moved forward with the measures announced last week to support the property industry

and revive languishing financial markets. The central bank announced on Sunday that it would direct banks to cut mortgage rates for existing home loans by Oct. 31. Meanwhile, the major southern city of Guangzhou lifted all home purchase restrictions over the weekend, while both Shanghai and Shenzhen revealed plans to ease key buying curbs.

Property developers have struggled after the government cracked down on excessive borrowing for projects several years ago. Housing prices have continued to fall and the government has moved to ensure that developers deliver apartments that were paid for but not yet built.

The downturn in the property sector has rippled throughout the world's second-largest economy, hitting many other industries that depended on booming housing construction, such as appliance makers and manufacturers of building materials.

It has slowed China's recovery from the massive disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic, adding to pressures on Chinese consumers worried over pay cuts, job losses and weaker asset prices.

The economy expanded at a 4.7% pace in the last quarter, slightly below the government's target for about 5%. (AP)

Facing possible strike at US ports, Biden admin urges operators to negotiate with unions

WASHINGTON (AP)—Top Biden administration officials met Friday with port operators ahead of a possible strike at East and Gulf coast ports, with a union contract expiring after Monday.

Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, Acting Labor Secretary Julie Su and Lael Brainard, director of the White House National Economic Council, told members of the United States Maritime Alliance that they should be at the table with the union and negotiating ahead of the contract expiring. That's according to a

White House official who insisted on anonymity to discuss the private meeting.

Administration officials have delivered a similar message to the union this week.

The White House is trying to encourage the alliance, which represents port operators and shipping carriers, to reach what both sides would consider to be a fair agreement with the International Longshoremen's Association. There is the possibility of a strike once the contract lapses, with unionized workers objecting to the addition of

new technologies to U.S. ports that they say could ultimately cause job losses.

President Joe Biden's team does not see a potential strike as necessarily disruptive to the economy in the short term, since retail inventories have increased as companies planned for the contract dispute. The federal government also has additional tools to monitor supply chains that it lacked during the COVID-19 pandemic when long wait times at ports and higher shipping costs pushed up inflation.

Nation

Death toll rises from Helene

PERRY, Fla. (AP)—Authorities struggled to get water and other supplies to isolated, flood-stricken areas across the U.S. Southeast in the wake of Hurricane Helene as the death toll from the storm rose to nearly 100.

A North Carolina county that includes the mountain city of Asheville reported 30 people killed due to the storm, and several other fatalities reported in North Carolina Sunday pushed the overall death toll to at least 91 people across several states.

Supplies were being air-lifted to the region around the isolated city. Buncombe County Manager Avril Pinder pledged that she would have food and water into Asheville—which is known for its arts, culture and natural attractions—by Monday.

“We hear you. We need food and we need water,” Pinder said on a Sunday call with reporters. “My staff has been making every request possible to the state for sup-

port and we’ve been working with every single organization that has reached out. What I promise you is that we are very close.”

Officials warned that rebuilding from the widespread loss of homes and property would be lengthy and difficult. The storm upended life throughout the Southeast.

» While supplies rushed to N. Carolina, Florida digs out

Deaths also were reported in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and Virginia.

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper predicted the toll would rise as rescuers and other emergency workers reached areas isolated by collapsed roads, failing infrastructure and widespread flooding.

He implored residents in western North Carolina to avoid travel, both for their own safety and to keep roads clear for emergency vehicles. More than 50 search teams spread throughout the region in search of stranded people.

One rescue effort involved

saving 41 people north of Asheville. Another mission focused on saving a single infant. The teams found people through both 911 calls and social media messages, North Carolina National Guard Adjutant General Todd Hunt said.

President Joe Biden described the impact of the storm as “stunning” and said he would visit the area this week as long as it does not disrupt rescues or recovery work.

Hurricane Helene roared ashore late Thursday in Florida’s Big Bend region as a Category 4 hurricane with 140 mph (225 kph) winds. A weakened Helene quickly moved through Georgia, then soaked the Carolinas and Tennessee with torrential rains that flooded creeks and rivers and strained dams.

There have been hundreds of water rescues, including in rural Unicoi County in East Tennessee, where dozens of patients and staff were plucked by helicopter from a hospital rooftop Friday.

World

1ST TIME IN NEARLY YEAR OF CONFLICT

An Israeli airstrike hits central Beirut

JERUSALEM (AP)—The first apparent Israeli airstrike on central Beirut in nearly a year of conflict leveled an apartment building early Monday, hours after Israel hit targets across Lebanon and killed dozens of people as Hezbollah sustained heavy blows to its command structure, including the killing of its leader, Hassan Nasrallah.

The airstrike hit a multi-story residential building, according to an Associated Press journalist at the scene. Videos showed ambulances and a crowd gathered near the building in a mainly Sunni district with a busy thoroughfare lined with shops.

The airstrike killed at least one person and wounded 16, said an official with Lebanese Civil Defense, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not

authorized to speak to the media. He said the person killed was a member of the al-Jamaa al-Islamiya, or the Islamic Group, a Sunni political and militant group that is allied with Hezbollah.

The group is not known to have played any meaningful role in the current conflict between Israel and Hezbollah.

A Palestinian leftist faction in Lebanon said three of its members were killed in the airstrike. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine said in a statement early Monday that its military and security commanders in Lebanon, and a third member were killed in the attack.

In the past week, Israel has frequently targeted Beirut’s southern suburbs, where the militant group Hezbollah has

a strong presence—including a major strike on Friday that killed Nasrallah—but had not hit locations near the city center.

Israeli officials had no immediate comment.

Earlier, Hezbollah confirmed that Nabil Kaouk, the deputy head of the militant group’s Central Council, was killed Saturday, making him the seventh senior Hezbollah leader killed in Israeli strikes in a little over a week. They include founding members who had evaded death or detention for decades.

Hezbollah also confirmed that Ali Karaki, another senior commander, died in the strike that killed Nasrallah. Israel says at least 20 other Hezbollah militants were killed, including one in charge of Nasrallah’s security detail.

WORLD BRIEFS

Flooding deaths in Nepal reach 193 as recovery work is stepped up

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP)—The number of people killed by flooding and landslides triggered by heavy rainfall over the weekend in Nepal has reached 193 while recovery and rescue work has been stepped up, officials said Monday. A police statement said there were 31 people who were still reported missing and 96 people were injured across the Himalayan nation. Many of the deaths were in the capital, Kathmandu, which got heavy rainfall, and much of southern part of the city was flooded. At least three buses stuck in traffic jam were buried by a landslide that killed three dozen people at a point on the highway about 16 kilometers (10 miles) from Kathmandu. Because of the blocked road, people in the buses and other vehicles were sleeping when the landslide buried the vehicles. Kathmandu had remained cut off all weekend as the three highways out of the city were blocked by landslides. Workers were able to temporarily open up the key Prithvi highway, removing rocks, mud and trees that had been washed from the mountains.

17 people have been killed in 2

mass shootings in the same street in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Seventeen people, including 15 women, were killed in two mass shootings that took place at two homes on the same street in a rural town in South Africa, police said Saturday. A search was underway for the suspects, national police spokesperson Brig. Athlenda Mathe said in a statement. The victims were 15 women and two men, she said. One other person was in critical condition in the hospital. That person was among four women, a man and a 2-month-old baby who survived one of the shootings. Authorities didn’t immediately give any details on the age or gender of the person in critical condition or the medical conditions of the other survivors. The shootings took place Friday night in the town of Lusikisiki in Eastern Cape province in southeastern South Africa. Three women and a man were killed in the first shootings at a home, where there were no survivors, police said. Twelve women and a man were killed at a separate home a short time later. The survivors were present at those second shootings. The shootings occurred late Friday night or in the early hours of Saturday, police said.

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Life & Style

'Megalopolis' flops, 'The Wild Robot' soars at box office

NEW YORK (AP)—Francis Ford Coppola's decades-in-the-making, self-financed epic "Megalopolis" flopped with moviegoers, while the acclaimed DreamWorks Animation family film "The Wild Robot" soared to No. 1 at the weekend box office.

"The Wild Robot," Chris Sanders' adaptation of Peter Brown's bestseller, outperformed expectations to launch with \$35 million in ticket sales in U.S. and Canada theaters, according to studio estimates Sunday. "Wild Robot" was poised to do well after critics raved about the story of a



This image released by Universal Pictures shows Roz, voiced by Lupita Nyong'o, left, and Brightbill, voiced by Kit Connor, in a scene from DreamWorks Animation's "Wild Robot."

shipwrecked robot who raises an orphan gosling. Audiences agreed, giving the film an A CinemaScore. "Wild Robot" is likely set up a long and lucrative run for the Universal

Pictures release.

Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore, predicts "The Wild Robot" "may take a page from the 'Elemental' playbook by opening

to respectable box office and then looking toward long-term playability." Pixar's "Elemental," which like "The Wild Robot" wasn't a sequel, debuted with a modest \$30 million but went on to gross nearly \$500 million worldwide.

Family movies, led by the year's biggest hit in "Inside Out 2," have particularly powered the box office this year. David A. Gross, a film consultant who publishes a newsletter for Franchise Entertainment, said the genre should

reach \$6 billion worldwide in 2024—which, he noted, "is back to pre-pandemic levels."

"Megalopolis," Coppola's vision of a Roman epic set in modern-day New York, was never expected to perform close to that level. But the film's \$4 million debut was still sobering for a movie that Coppola bankrolled himself for \$120 million. Following its premiere at the Cannes Film Festival, critics have been mixed on Coppola's first film in 13 years. Audiences gave in a D+ CinemaScore.

By any financial measure, "Megalopolis" was a megaflop. But from the start, the 85-year-old Coppola maintained money wasn't his concern. Coppola fashioned the film, which he first began developing in the late 1970s, as a grand personal statement about human possibility.

"Everyone's so worried about money," Coppola told The Associated Press in an interview ahead of the film's release. "I say: Give me less money and give me more friends."

John Ashton, 'Beverly Hills Cop' actor, dies at 76

NEW YORK (AP)—John Ashton, the veteran character actor who memorably played the gruff but lovable police detective John Taggart in the "Beverly Hills Cop" films, has died. He was 76.

Ashton died Thursday in Fort Collins, Colorado, his family announced in a statement released by Ashton's manager, Alan Somers, on Sunday. No cause of death was immediately available.

In a career that spanned more than 50 years, Ashton was a regular face across TV series and films, including "Midnight Run," "Little Big League" and "Gone Baby Gone."

But in the "Beverly Hills Cop" films, Ashton played an essential part of an indelible trio. Though Eddie Murphy's

Axel Foley, a Detroit detective following a case in Los Angeles, was the lead, the two local detectives—Billy Rosewood (Judge Reinhold) and Ashton's Taggart—were Axel's sometimes reluctant, sometimes eager collaborators.



Ashton

Of the three, Taggart—"Sarge"—to Billy—was the more fearful, by-the-book detective. But he would regularly be coaxed into Axel's plans. Ashton co-starred in the first two films, beginning with the 1984 original, and returned for the Netflix reboot, "Beverly Hills Cop: Axel F," released earlier this year.

Ashton played a more unscrupulous character in Martin Brest's 1988 buddy comedy "Midnight Run." He was the rival bounty hunter also pursu-

ing Charles Grodin's wanted accountant in "The Duke" while he's in the custody of Robert De Niro's Jack Walsh.

Speaking in July to Collider, Ashton recalled auditioning with De Niro.

"Bobby started handing me these matches, and I went to grab the matches, and he threw them on the floor and stared at me," said Ashton. "I looked at the matches, and I looked up, and I said, 'F—you,' and he said, 'F—you, too.' I said, 'Go—yourself.' I know every other actor picked those up and handed it to him, and I found out as soon as I left he went, 'I want him,' because he wanted somebody to stand up to him."

Ashton is survived by his wife, Robin Hoyer, of 24 years, two children, three stepchildren, a grandson, two sisters and a brother.

Kris Kristofferson, singer-songwriter and actor, dies at 88

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kris Kristofferson, a Rhodes scholar with a deft writing style and rough charisma who became a country music superstar and an A-list Hollywood actor, has died.

Kristofferson died at his home on Maui, Hawaii, on Saturday, family spokeswoman Ebbe McFarland said in an email. He was 88.

McFarland said Kristofferson died peacefully, surrounded by his family. No cause was given.

Starting in the late 1960s, the Brownsville, Texas native wrote such country and rock 'n' roll standards as "Sunday Mornin' Comin' Down," "Help Me Make It Through the Night," "For the Good Times" and "Me and Bobby McGee." Kristofferson was a singer himself, but many of his songs were best known as performed by others, whether Ray Price crooning "For the Good Times" or Janis Joplin belting out "Me and Bobby McGee."



AP

Kris Kristofferson performs in concert at The American Music Theatre, April 12, 2019, in Lancaster, Pa.

He starred opposite Ellen Burstyn in director Martin Scorsese's 1974 film "Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore," starred opposite Barbra Streisand in the 1976 "A Star Is Born," and acted alongside Wesley Snipes in Marvel's "Blade" in 1998.

Kristofferson, who could recite William Blake from

memory, wove intricate folk music lyrics about loneliness and tender romance into popular country music. With his long hair and bell-bottomed slacks and counterculture songs influenced by Bob Dylan, he represented a new breed of country songwriters along with such peers as Willie Nelson, John Prine and Tom T. Hall.

Daughter refuses to forgive mother for affair

DEAR ABBY: My older sister had an affair with an old boyfriend that lasted several months. She was 58 and had been married for 38 years. Her husband, who is a wonderful person and father of their three grown children, forgave her. He's a devout Catholic, and divorce was out of the question. She has made every effort to ask for forgiveness from her husband and children and fix the issues in her marriage.

The lingering problem is her oldest child (a daughter, age 35) who is unwilling to forgive and seems to hate her mother now. My niece refuses to have any kind of relationship with her mom. This situation is so painful for my sister that it's kind of destroying her. Please offer any advice.

SADDENED IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR SADDENED: Your sister's husband and the other two adult children have forgiven their mother for the affair. No one can force the daughter to accept that her mother, like so many others, is flawed. People make mistakes. Your sister will have to go on with her life and hope that as this daughter matures, she will learn to forgive as the Lord forgives most of us after we have repented.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a caregiver and have been since the age of 13. I'll soon be 54. I have taken care of my sister since our

parents passed nearly 20 years ago. I'm seriously considering placing her in a nursing home because she has started needing even more care, and I'm having some health issues myself.

We have brothers and sisters who promise to help care for her and give me a break, but they haven't done it. I am married. Both my sons are grown and out of the house, living their lives. Should I feel guilty or not?

DUTY-BOUND IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR DUTY-BOUND: I don't think so. It is now time to take care of yourself. You have done more than your fair share of taking care of your sister. If she needs assisted living, your siblings should step forward, at the very least, in sharing the cost since they have done nothing else in the past to help.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am a stepmother to a beautiful woman I love very much. She has given us three beautiful granddaughters and a handsome grandson. Sadly, my husband has a rare and aggressive form of cancer, and it looks terminal. My question is, after his passing, do I continue to be a stepmother?

I know it's most likely up to her, but I'm curious about the proper protocol. This will help me determine how I introduce her to others. Will she always be my stepdaughter, or does she become my late husband's daughter?

UNKNOWN IN NEW YORK

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR UNKNOWN: When it comes to love, the rules are not important. This conversation is premature. After your husband's funeral, ask his daughter what she would like you to call her in the future, and assure her that you love her as though she is your natural child, and would not want to use any label that would make her feel less than that.

■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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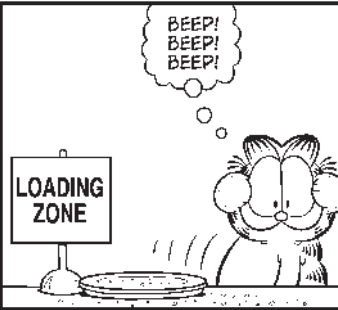
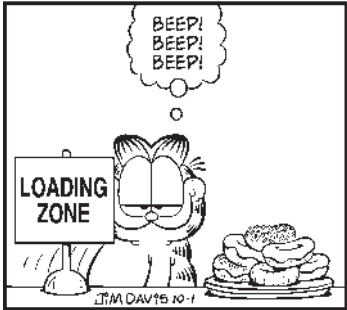
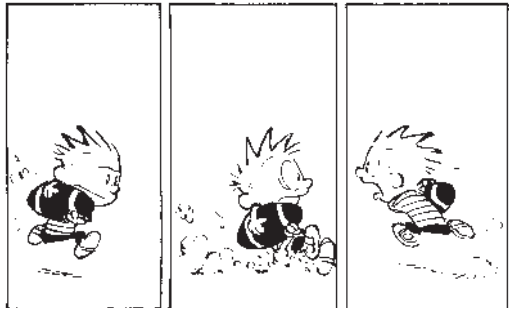
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 39 — 1 Com-plaint 5 Sony rival 8 Loony 12 Track shape 13 Charged bit 14 Beige 15 St. Peters-burg's river 16 Governor Whitmer of Michigan 18 Imp 20 Mountain crest 21 Abysmal 22 Gorilla 23 Mojito needs 26 Walmart welcomer 30 GI show org. 31 — choy 32 Hearty quaff 33 Lubri-cated 36 Teaser ad 38 Complete

DOWN 1 Sound from Big Ben 2 Always 3 Roof overhang 4 Blazing, on a dessert menu 5 Stiff 6 Muffin type 7 Hydro-carbon suffix 8 Edict 9 Sore spot 10 Worry 11 Melody 17 Carton sealer 19 Scale notes 22 Noah's vessel 23 Schlep 24 Medit. nation 25 Curly's bra 26 Delty 27 Eastern "way" 28 Shade tree 29 Old Olds 31 Quilters' meet-up 34 Broad street 35 Missile shelter 36 Opposite of "post-" 37 Porch chair 39 Thin pancake 40 "Zounds!" 41 Not pizzicato 42 Vend 43 Pleased 44 Illinois neighbor 45 Mr. Guinness 46 Not even one 48 Bikini top

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 10-1

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Brie Larson, 35; Zach Galifianakis, 55; Esai Morales, 62; Julie Andrews, 89.

Happy Birthday: Trust your emotions and follow your heart; you'll get a clear picture if you observe. Focus on building a solid base of trust and implementing what's essential to longevity. Patience, discipline, energy and desire will get you where you want to go and encourage you to surpass your expectations. Growth and happiness will become one as you march into the future with insight, grit and a positive attitude. Your numbers are 8, 15, 21, 28, 39, 44, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Stand tall and be counted. Investigate and act. Make it your mission to make a difference. Put your intelligence to the test and implement facts and doable solutions that others can adopt. Be the one to light the wick, and watch things change around you. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put your time and effort into how you earn your living and choose your investments, and take better care of yourself. Do some research, and you'll discover how to take advantage of what and who you know to make the world around you better. Giving back will lift your spirits and your reputation. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Someone will mislead you if you come across as gullible. Question everything, go directly to the source, research and decide what's best for you. Act on your own behalf and let others do as they please. Socialize and interact, but most of all, trust and believe in yourself. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Sit tight if your thoughts aren't clear. Put your energy into self-improvement, health and fitness, and expand your circle of friends and interests. Don't let anger seep into conversations or

cause frustration and grief. Stay calm, listen and proceed with a positive attitude. Choose peace over discord. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Fix up your living space; invest time and money in yourself and your surroundings. Efficiency will make a difference in the outcome of a project. Ask questions and gather information to help you decide what you can achieve independently and when to call for help. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Explore places and pastimes that excite you. A change will motivate you and give you a clear picture of your goals. The prerequisite to happiness is doing the right thing at the right time. Don't hold back; follow your dreams and get on with life. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Enthusiasm will make a difference. How you influence others to see things your way will determine the outcome. Opportunity knocks, and time, charm and patience will seal a deal that can exceed your expectations. Take action when action is necessary. Stick to facts and figures. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Interactions will give you something to consider. Communication, conferences, reunions and gatherings that put you in touch with motivational people and influences will impact how you move forward. Be open and receptive to change, and embrace whatever makes you feel good about yourself. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be careful; someone you least expect will lead you astray. Look for opportunities that you have insight into, and replenish your thoughts with the history of something or someone you want to pursue. Don't take a risk; be thoughtful, gather facts and be realistic regarding what you discover. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Question your choices and start conversations with experts, but don't give in to anyone who treats you arrogantly. You decide what's best for you. Your intuition is smack-dab on target, and if you do your due diligence, it will lead you to positive change and profit. ****



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Simplify your life instead of adding unnecessary stress. Spending on something you don't need, or getting into a joint venture, shared expenses or iffy investment, will be costly physically and emotionally. Stick to what and who you know, use your intelligence and know when to say no. ****



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Downsize, rethink your strategy, restructure your plans and put your energy into studying and researching the possibilities. Your actions will make a difference in how and where you live. A change of pace, associates or lifestyle will play in your favor. Personal growth and love are favored. ***



Birthday Baby: You are majestic, insightful and kind. You are influential and bold.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

6 5 2

3 4

2 7 3 6 9 1

9 5 3 2

2 8 4 9 5

7 4 6 9

1 2 9 5 3 6

1 7 4

4 8 7 5

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4 8 7 9 1 6 3 2 5

1 6 3 5 7 2 9 4 8

9 5 2 4 8 3 7 6 1

5 9 8 7 2 4 1 3 6

7 1 4 3 6 8 5 9 2

3 2 6 1 5 9 8 7 4

6 7 1 2 3 5 4 8 9

8 3 9 6 4 1 2 5 7

2 4 5 8 9 7 6 1 3

Difficulty: ★★ 10/1
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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

FLOWER VENDORS Solution: 9 letters

Y A D H T R I B A L L O O N S
N A U T U M N A S T U L I P S
O N D C F R E S H T A E R W F
E N O I O A E K S R E I L P L
P I C B L R S E E D N O O I O
I V A L B O S T M G V T R L R
C E R O U I H A R E S I C I A
K R N O D C R E G Y S A H L L
L S A M S K W E S E M T I I
A A T S E O U I R U N M D E
W R I T L S A E M I M O A S O
E Y O F S D U S R S W M R O F
D K N I F E N I M S A J E P F
I U T S T N E M E G N A R R A
S Y M P A T H Y R E V I L E D

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Anniversary, Apron, Arrangements, Autumn, Balloons, Basket, Birthday, Blooms, Buds, Carnation, Corsage, Daffodil, Daisy, Delivery, Fast, Floral, Foam, Fresh, Holiday, Iris, Jasmine, Knife, Lilies, Love, Market, Mums, Orchid, Peony, Pick, Pliers, Pots, Ribbon, Seed, Sidewalk, Spring, Summer, Sunflower, Sympathy, Tissue, Tulips, Wire, Wreath
Yesterday's Answer: Wet
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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Ohtani falls short of Triple Crown as Dodgers edge Rockies, 2-1



DENVER

(AP)—Shohei Ohtani went 1 for 4 and fell short in his bid to become the National League's first Triple Crown winner since 1937, stealing his 59th base to help the Los Angeles Dodgers rally past the Colorado Rockies 2-1 on Sunday in Charlie Blackmon's final game.

Ohtani finished the regular season leading the NL in homers (54) and RBIs (130). His .310 average trailed San Diego's Luis Arráez (.314) in the batting race.

The charter member of the 50-50 club, Ohtani swiped his 59th base during the eighth-inning rally.

The last NL Triple Crown winner was St. Louis Cardinals outfielder Joe Medwick in 1937. In the AL, Detroit's Miguel Cabrera won the Triple Crown in 2012.

Chris Taylor tied the game in the eighth with his first homer since July 7. Soon after Austin Barnes swiped third as part of a double steal with Ohtani. Rockies reliever Seth Halvorsen appeared to get his cleat caught in the dirt in his delivery and stopped. He was called for a balk to bring home Barnes.

Evan Phillips (5-1) earned the win and Edgardo Henriquez closed out the ninth for his first career save, among 14 Dodgers with saves this season.

RED SOX 3, RAYS 1

BOSTON (AP)—Vaughn Grissom had an RBI double and scored a run to help Boston beat Tampa Bay in the teams' season finales, earning the Red Sox third place ahead of the Rays in the AL East.

The Red Sox finished the season with a record of 81-81, missing the playoffs for the third straight year for the first time since 2010-12. Boston was 78-84 in each of the past two seasons.

The Rays ended the year at 80-82, halting a stretch of five consecutive seasons going to the postseason. They went 99-63 in 2023.

Making his 26th start, Rays 27-year-old righty Ryan Pepiot (8-8) gave up two runs, one earned, in four innings. It was his 13th straight start allowing three or fewer runs.

Grissom doubled in the third and scored from third on Triston Casas' grounder to first, sliding in to make it 2-0.

CARDINALS 6, GIANTS 1

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Brendan Donovan hit a solo homer in the third and followed it up with an RBI single two innings later and Alec Burleson drove in three runs, leading St. Louis past San Francisco.



AP
Los Angeles Dodgers' Shohei Ohtani follows the flight of his single off Colorado Rockies pitcher Seth Halvorsen in the eighth inning of a baseball game Sunday, Sept. 29, 2024, in Denver.

José Fermín hit an RBI single in the sixth as the Cardinals backed rookie righty Michael McGreevy (3-0), who stuck out six with no walks while allowing one run on five hits over eight impressive innings.

Giants rookie right-hander Hayden Birdsong (5-6) struck out 10 of the initial 15 Cardinals hitters and finished with 11 Ks in his 16th start for San Francisco—one off his career high. It marked Birdsong's second career double-digit strikeout game after fanning 12 at Colorado on July 21.

He gave way to Taylor Rogers after back-to-back RBI singles by Donovan and Burleson in the fifth. Burleson also had a two-run single in the sixth.

RANGERS 8, ANGELS 0

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Nathan Eovaldi pitched seven scoreless innings, Dustin Harris had a homer and two-run double in his second MLB game and the defending champion Texas closed out their season with a victory over Los Angeles.

Nathaniel Lowe also homered and Josh Smith drove in two runs for the Rangers, who were eliminated from postseason contention Sept. 20. Texas finished the season with its first sweep of a three-game series since late August, against the Chicago White Sox.

The Rangers finished 78-84, one season after going 90-72 and charging through the postseason on the way to their first World Series title in franchise history.

Angels rookie starter Jack Kochanowicz (2-6) gave up three runs on six hits over seven innings in the 11th start of his career after making his big league debut July 11. The Angels finished with the most losses in franchise history at 63-99 after going 73-89 last season.

ORIOLES 6, TWINS 2

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—

James McCann hit a three-homer and Heston Kjerstad went deep to launch Baltimore into the postseason with a victory over the Minnesota that completed a three-game sweep.

Albert Suárez (9-7) pitched six smooth innings to end a rough September on a better note, allowing solo home runs to Carlos Santana and DaShawn Keirsey Jr. among four hits with one walk and four strikeouts.

Jordan Westburg added a two-run single for the Orioles, who finished 91-71 for the first of three American League wild-card spots and will face either Detroit or Kansas City in the first round of the playoffs.

MARINERS 6, ATHLETICS 4

SEATTLE (AP)—Logan Gilbert took a perfect game into the sixth inning to cap the best season of his career and Cal Raleigh hit a record-setting two-run homer as Seattle beat Oakland.

That was it for Gilbert, who struck out seven and finished the season with 208 2/3 innings pitched, becoming the first Seattle pitcher to lead baseball in innings for a season. Gilbert (9-12) finished with 220 strikeouts and lowered his ERA to 3.23.

The homer also gave Raleigh 100 RBIs, the first catcher in franchise history to reach that mark.

Raleigh's two-run homer to cap Seattle's four-run fifth inning came on the final pitch from A's starter Mitch Spence (8-10). Raleigh's homer was the 93rd in his career, passing Mike Piazza for the most home runs by a catcher in their first four seasons.

MARLINS 3, BLUE JAYS 1

TORONTO (AP)—Jonah Bride reached base three times and drove in two runs, Otto Lopez had two hits and an RBI against his former team and Miami completed a three-

game sweep of Toronto.

Ryan Weathers (5-6) allowed one run and three hits in 6 1/3 innings to win his second straight start. Weathers walked two and struck out six. He retired 16 straight batters between the second and seventh innings.

Anthony Bender got the final four outs for his first save in five chances as Miami swept a series for the second time.

PHILLIES 6, NATIONALS 3

WASHINGTON (AP)—Kyle Schwarber and Weston Wilson each drove in two runs, Aaron Nola earned his 14th victory and the NL East champion Philadelphia avoided a series sweep and closed out the regular season with a win over Washington.

Philadelphia finished 95-67, the second-best record in the National League behind the Los Angeles Dodgers (98-64), and were five games better than last season. The Phillies' victory total was the team's highest since winning 102 games in 2011—the last time they won the division.

Luis García Jr. homered in the first inning for Washington, which went 71-91 for the second straight season.

Nola (14-8) allowed three runs in five-plus innings and struck out seven. A day after teammate Zack Wheeler ended his regular season with 200 innings pitched, Nola came within two outs of matching the feat. The 31-year-old right-hander was lifted after giving up a leadoff triple to Dylan Crews in the sixth.

WHITE SOX 9, TIGERS 5

DETROIT (AP)—Lenyn Sosa hit a three-run homer in the third inning to give Chicago a five-run lead as they went on to beat the playoff-bound Detroit.

Kerry Carpenter's grand slam in the fifth inning pulled Detroit within a run, but it couldn't get closer. Bryan Ra-

mos' two-run single in a four-run seventh inning restored Chicago's comfortable cushion.

Detroit earned an American League wild card with a win over the White Sox on Friday night to end a decade-long playoff drought and will play at Houston on Tuesday.

The Tigers finished 86-76, an eight-game improvement over last year, for their first winning season since 2016.

The White Sox wrapped up with 121 losses, breaking the post-1900 record of most losses held for more than a half-century by the 1962 New York Mets.

METS 5, BREWERS 0

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Francisco Lindor homered and drove in two runs, David Peterson pitched seven brilliant innings and New York moved within one win of a playoff berth with a victory over Milwaukee.

Francisco Alvarez also had two RBIs for the Mets, who now head to Atlanta needing at least a doubleheader split Monday against the rivals Braves to secure a National League wild card.

New York (88-72) could have clinched a postseason spot with a win and an Arizona loss, but the Diamondbacks (89-73) routed San Diego at home to complete their regular season.

DIAMONDBACKS 11, PADRES 2

PHOENIX (AP)—Ketel Marte's two-run homer capped a six-run fourth inning and Arizona stayed alive in the National League wild card race with a rout of the playoff-bound San Diego in their regular-season finale.

Arizona finished 89-73 and won't know if it reaches the postseason until a makeup doubleheader Monday between the New York Mets and Atlanta Braves, who are both 88-72. If either team sweeps, the Diamondbacks reach the playoffs but if the doubleheader is split, the Mets and Braves advance and Arizona is out.

Luis Arraez of the Padres doubled in the sixth inning to finish 1 for 3 and move to the verge of his third consecutive batting title at .314. He would be the first since 1900 to win three batting titles with three different teams.

Brandon Pfaadt (11-10) allowed two runs and three hits in 5 1/3 innings with nine strikeouts for the Diamondbacks, who had lost five of six.

YANKEES 6, PIRATES 4

NEW YORK (AP)—Alex Verdugo hit a go-ahead two-run single with the bases loaded and two outs in the eighth inning and New York

ended the regular season with a victory over Pittsburgh.

Struggling for most of the second half, Verdugo snapped a 4-4 tie by hitting a fastball from Carmen Mlodzinski into right field to score Austin Wells and Jasson Domínguez. Wells was hit by a pitch from Colin Holderman (3-6) and Domínguez walked.

Following a walk by Jon Berti, Verdugo delivered his fourth hit in 24 at-bats with the bases loaded. Acquired from Boston in December, Verdugo batted .233 in his first season with the Yankees.

Luke Weaver (7-3) stranded a runner in the eighth and Clay Holmes struck out O'Neil Cruz on a sweeper for his 30th save in 43 chances. It was Holmes' first save since Aug. 30 against St. Louis.

REDS 3, CUBS 0

CHICAGO (AP)—Elly De La Cruz hit two-run double in the 10th inning to break a scoreless tie and Cincinnati ended their season with a shutout of Chicago.

De La Cruz tagged Ethan Roberts (1-1) for the go-ahead hit down the right field line on an 0-2 count after Luke Maile singled and Jonathan India walked. Tyler Stephenson came up next and drove in De La Cruz with a single to center to help the Reds end a five-game skid.

Tony Santillan (3-3) got the win and Buck Farmer worked the bottom of the 10th for his first save.

The Cubs, seeking a sweep of the Reds, managed just three hits as Cody Bellinger and Dansby Swanson got the day off.

Caleb Kilian made his first start of the season for the Cubs and allowed three hits and two walks with four strikeouts in five innings. Hunter Greene worked the first four for Cincinnati and gave up a hit with three walks and three strikeouts.

ROYALS 4, BRAVES 2

ATLANTA (AP)—Charlie Morton gave up a three-run homer to Michael Massey in the first inning and Atlanta squandered a chance to clinch a postseason berth, losing to the playoff-bound Kansas City in what was supposed to be the final day of the regular season.

Before recording an out, Morton gave up a leadoff double to Tommy Pham, a single to Bobby Witt Jr. and Massey's homer.

Morton (8-10) surrendered four runs on five hits with two walks and three strikeouts over 4 1/3 innings.

Atlanta had ample opportunity to score more than two runs but went 1 for 9 with runners in scoring position.

Falcons rally with late field goal to beat Saints, 26-24



ATLANTA (AP) — Younghoe Koo kicked a 58-yard field goal

with two seconds remaining and the Atlanta Falcons rallied for a 26-24 victory over the New Orleans Saints without scoring an offensive touchdown Sunday.

Koo kicked four field goals in all, also connecting from 53, 44 and 42 yards to give the Falcons (2-2) a desperately needed home victory.

They had lost their first two games at Mercedes-Benz Stadium and seemed on the verge of falling to 0-3 in Atlanta when Alvin Kamara scored on a 1-yard run with a minute remaining to push the Saints (2-2) to a 24-23 lead.

A 30-yard pass interference penalty on Paulson Adebo gave the Falcons hope at the New Orleans 40. Kirk Cousins threw three straight incompletions, but it didn't matter.

Koo knocked down the longest field goal in the stadium's seven-year history with plenty to spare, sending the Saints to their second straight close loss after two dominating victories to open the season.

BEARS 24, RAMS 18

CHICAGO (AP)—Caleb Williams led four scoring drives, D'Andre Swift had 165 yards from scrimmage and a touchdown as Chicago held off Los Angeles.

Jaquan Brisker intercepted Matthew Stafford with about a minute remaining after the Bears punted on the previous play, helping Chicago (2-2) end a two-game skid.

Williams threw for 157 yards and a touchdown after setting a Bears rookie record by passing for 363 yards at Indianapolis last week. The No. 1 overall draft pick and former Heisman Trophy winner out of Southern California was 17 of 23 with a 9-yard TD pass to DJ Moore in the third quarter.

Swift had his best game since signing with the Bears in March. A Pro Bowler with Philadelphia last season, he broke off a 36-yard touchdown run that made it 24-15 in the fourth quarter. He finished with 16 rushes for 93 yards and seven catches for 72 yards.

BUCCANEERS 33, EAGLES 16

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Baker Mayfield threw for 347 yards and two touchdowns, while Mike Evans became the Buccaneers' career scoring leader during Tampa Bay's victory over Philadelphia.

Mayfield, who completed 30 of 47 passes without an interception, also ran for a TD in



Atlanta Falcons players celebrate place kicker Younghoe Koo's game-winning 58-yard-field goal against the New Orleans Saints during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Sept. 29, 2024, in Atlanta.

helping the Bucs (3-1) dominate the rematch of a lopsided NFC wild-card game they won against the Eagles (2-2) last January.

Rebounding from a poor performance in a loss to Denver the previous week, Mayfield and the offense scored a touchdown on its opening possession for the first time in 21 games. Evans' 2-yard scoring reception finished a 10-play, 79-yard drive that set the tone for the Bucs, who outgained the Eagles 254 yards to zero in building a 24-0 lead.

COLTS 27, STEELERS 24

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Joe Flacco threw two touchdown passes in relief of the injured Anthony Richardson, and Indianapolis came up with a stop in the final minute to beat Pittsburgh.

Indy (2-2) has won two straight since opening the season with back-to-back losses—and two straight against Pittsburgh.

The Steelers (3-1) fought back from a 17-0 deficit but fell just short of extending their six-game regular-season winning streak. Pittsburgh's top-ranked defense allowed a season-high point total.

Justin Fields ran for two second-half scores and threw for another to cut the deficit to 27-24 with 3:40 to go. But the Steelers turned the ball over on downs when they couldn't recover from a botched snap that resulted in a 12-yard loss with less than two minutes to play.

Flacco, the 2023 Comeback Player of the Year with Cleveland, played just well enough to preserve the victory after Richardson left for the second time in four plays late in the first quarter with the Colts leading 7-0. Flacco finished 19 of 30 for 166 yards against a

team he knew well from his 11 seasons with Baltimore.

TEXANS 24, JAGUARS 20

HOUSTON (AP)—C.J. Stroud threw for 345 yards and two touchdowns, capped by a 1-yard pass to Dare Ogunbowale with 18 seconds left, to give Houston a win over Jacksonville.

Houston forced a three-and-out to get the ball back with less than three minutes to go.

Stroud then led a nine-play, 69-yard drive to give the Texans (3-1) their first points of the second half and survive a scare by the winless Jaguars (0-4).

The Texans bounced back from a 34-7 rout at Minnesota to get the victory despite fumbling a punt return early and committing 12 penalties to give them 35 combined in their past three games.

The Jaguars fell to 0-4 for the first time since opening the 2021 season with five straight losses.

BRONCOS 10, JETS 9

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Bo Nix threw his first NFL touchdown and Denver overcame a miserable first half on offense and held on to beat New York in a defensive standoff.

Rodgers came up limping a bit after a sack late in the fourth quarter and seemed to be favoring his left leg—the same on which his Achilles tendon was surgically repaired last year—and was looked at on the sideline by trainers.

It appeared Rodgers might have also fumbled on the play, but the Broncos were out of challenges so Sean Payton couldn't ask officials to review.

Rodgers came back on the Jets' next possession with 2:31 remaining but couldn't

get anything going. Facing fourth-and-10 on New York's 45, Rodgers was sacked from behind by a blitzing P.J. Locke to give the Broncos the ball at the 35.

VIKINGS 31, PACKERS 29

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Sam Darnold threw three touchdown passes and Jordan Addison scored twice as Minnesota built an early 28-point lead and hung on down the stretch to beat Green Bay.

The Vikings (4-0) are off to their best start since 2016, when they won their first five games before slumping to an 8-8 finish. They have trailed for less than 3 1/2 minutes all season.

Minnesota spoiled the return of Packers quarterback Jordan Love, who returned after missing two games with an injured left medial collateral ligament. He threw for 389 yards and four touchdowns, both career highs. But he also matched a career high with three interceptions while going 32 of 54.

Jayden Reed had seven receptions for 139 yards and a touchdown for the Packers (2-2).

BENGALS 34, PANTHERS 24

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Joe Burrow threw for 232 yards and two touchdowns, Chase Brown ran for 80 yards and two scores and Cincinnati held on to beat Carolina for their first win of the season.

Ja'Marr Chase had three catches for 85 yards, including a 63-yard catch-and-run touchdown as the Bengals avoided a potentially disastrous fourth straight loss to open the season. Of the 155 teams to start 0-4 since the merger, only the 1992 Char-

gers were able to rebound and make the playoffs.

Zack Moss had 78 yards from scrimmage and a touchdown reception for the Bengals (1-3).

Andy Dalton threw for 220 yards with two touchdowns and one interception against his former team, but couldn't quite match the magic he displayed in his first start a week ago when he led the Panthers to a 36-22 win over the Las Vegas Raiders.

COMMANDERS 42, CARDINALS 14

GLENDAL, Ariz. (AP)—Jayden Daniels threw for 233 yards and a touchdown and ran for a score in his desert return, and Washington extended their winning streak to three with a victory over Arizona.

Daniels—the No. 2 overall pick last spring—became the fourth quarterback in the Super Bowl era to run for four touchdowns in his first four career games, joining Cam Newton, Robert Griffin III and Anthony Richardson.

Daniels also completed 26 of 30 passes and has an absurd 82% completion percentage in his short career. He hit Terry McLaurin for a 10-yard touchdown strike midway through the fourth quarter, and found Zach Ertz in the back of the end zone on the 2-point conversion, for an insurmountable 35-14 lead.

49ERS 30, PATRIOTS 13

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)—Brock Purdy threw a touchdown pass, Fred Warner returned an interception for a score and San Francisco snapped a two-game skid by beating New England.

After losing on the road at Minnesota and against the Los Angeles Rams the past two weeks, the Niners (2-2) found their footing quickly back at home against the struggling Patriots (1-3).

San Francisco got field goals from Jake Moody on the opening two drives before Warner delivered his latest big play of the season, making a diving interception against Jacoby Brissett and returning it 45 yards for his second career TD. Warner has three forced fumbles and two interceptions through four games this season.

CHIEFS 17, CHARGERS 10

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Patrick Mahomes passed for 245 yards and a touchdown while rediscovering his connection with Travis Kelce, and Kansas City rallied from an early 10-point deficit to beat

Los Angeles.

Making his 100th regular-season start, Mahomes completed 19 of 29 passes for the two-time defending Super Bowl champion Chiefs, who are 4-0 for the first time since 2020. Kelce had a season-high seven receptions for 89 yards and set the franchise's career receptions record, surpassing fellow tight end Tony Gonzalez.

Kansas City has won six straight over the Chargers. It also has 11 straight road victories its AFC West rival, the longest active winning streak by a visiting squad and tied for third all-time.

RAIDERS 20, BROWNS 16

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Las Vegas used a strong defense as well as a balanced running game to hold off a late rally to beat Cleveland.

Cleveland drove to the Raiders 9-yard line, but Deshaun Watson was sacked by Charles Snowden with 41 seconds left to seal the victory.

The Raiders held on for the win despite star wide receiver Davante Adams (hamstring) and premier pass rusher Maxx Crosby (ankle) missing the game because of injuries. And the defense held the Browns to 241 total yards.

RAVENS 35, BILLS 10

BALTIMORE (AP)—Derrick Henry busted out the longest run in franchise history on the way to a 199-yard game, Lamar Jackson threw for two touchdowns and rushed for another, and Baltimore handed Josh Allen and Buffalo their first loss of the season.


Henry took his first hand-off 87 yards to the house to give the Ravens (2-2) an early lead they never relinquished. Jackson, the two-time and reigning NFL MVP, completed 13 of 18 passes for 156 yards with TD throws to Henry and Justice Hill and ran for 54 yards, with Buffalo (3-1) finding no answers to stop Baltimore's offense.

Henry tormented the Bills in prime time for the second time in his career, averaging 8.3 yards on his 24 carries three years after running for 143 yards and three TDs against them while with Tennessee. His 5-yard reception from Jackson in the end zone in the second quarter was just the fourth TD catch of his career and first since 2019.

So much went right for the Ravens that even when Henry fumbled at the goal line early in the fourth, Patrick Ricard fell on the ball for their fifth touchdown of the night.

NBA’s youngest MVP Derrick Rose announces retirement

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

 Derrick Rose’s last act as an NBA player came in the form of a letter to the game of basketball, addressing the highs and lows that he experienced over a 16-year pro career.

And with that, his career ended on his terms.

Rose, the No. 1 overall pick in the 2008 NBA draft by his hometown Chicago Bulls and the league’s MVP in 2011, announced his retirement on Thursday. He



Chicago Bulls guard Derrick Rose falls after being tripped while driving against the Boston Celtics in the first half of an NBA basketball game in Boston, Nov. 28, 2014.

was, and still is, the youngest MVP winner in NBA history, claiming that award when he was just 22.

“You believed in me through the highs and lows, my constant when everything else seemed uncertain,” Rose wrote as part of his letter to the game, serving as his retirement announcement. He posted the letter online, as well as taking out full-page newspaper advertisements in each of the cities where he played in his NBA years.

“You told me it’s okay to say goodbye, reassuring me that you’ll always be a part of me, no matter where life takes me,” he wrote.

Rose was the league’s rookie of the year in 2008-09 for the Bulls, was the league’s MVP two seasons later and was an All-Star selection in three of his first four seasons. A major knee injury during the 2012 playoffs forced him to miss almost two full seasons and he contemplated stepping away from the game several times following other injury issues, but always found ways to get back onto the floor.

Bulls owner Jerry Reinsdorf said Rose “represents the grit, resilience, and heart” of Chicago.

“He’s one of the toughest and most determined athletes I’ve ever been around, constantly fighting through adversity that would have broken most,” Reinsdorf said. “Watching him grow from a Chicago Public League star to becoming the youngest MVP in NBA history as a

Bull has been nothing short of an honor.”

Besides the Bulls, Rose would also play for New York, Detroit, Minnesota, Cleveland and Memphis. He spent last season with the Grizzlies, returning to the city that he called home for his one season of college basketball.

He played in 24 games with the Grizzlies last season and when it ended Rose spoke at length about what a return to Memphis meant to him.

“It’s all full circle,” Rose said in April. “Coming back here, having my family here, my wife’s family is from here, being back in this arena, having some of the people that came to my college games actually come to my professional games here, it’s all love.”

GOLD

From page 16

“it was great. “It was very well organized and it’s a really nice place.”

In other results of the adult no-gi, Jason Atrero won gold in the 171-185-lb middle-weight division. He beat out Evert Van Der Maas, while bronze went to Isaiah “Chiba the Goat” Sablan.

Atrero said after his win, “It’s a lot of emotions because you’re challenging friends and family. So of course there’s a lot of emotions going down, but honestly, it felt so good. One thing I want to just say is to just get more people into the sport. It’ll be more fun and more competition.”

Throughout the competition he said he had his best stuff. “It was just a good day for me, especially with my techniques...

I just tried to be the aggressor and not try to be on the defensive end. I always tried to look for openings to try and submit and get the better position. Ultimately, that’s my goal.”

He then said, “Big shout out to my professor Cuki, all the boys, and my team members that came out to support me.”

In the 161-170-lb welter-weight division, Enoch Pamintuan bagged gold over Christopher Dela Cruz, bronze was Ernesto “Batman” Licop.

Bryan Deleon Guerrero, who won gold in the heavy-weight division, also won gold in the 151-160-lb lightweight division. Silver was Giovonni Taitingfong, while bronze was Ballen Song.

Jake Yamagishi came out on top over silver medalist Mathew Salas, while bronze was Javin Okawa in the 141-150-lb featherweight division.

In the 131-140-lb bantam-

weight, Edward Diaz took gold over Coby Reyes. Bronze was Seth “Gremlin” Sablan.

There were only two grapplers in the 121-130-lb flyweight division, with Bengbeng “The Dengdeng” Palacios coming out on top over James Woong Choi.

Leighton “Leight the Great” Palacios lived up to his nickname and won gold over Phil “Prime Time” Gregorio, while bronze was Jess “Not Like the Rest” Ma.

And in the 101-110-lb atomweight division, Drey “Drizzy” Aldan bagged gold as the two other competitors in the division didn’t show up.

Results of the kids gi categories will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

Mats on Fire served as Trench Tech Promotions’ fundraiser for the upcoming Pátgon Jiu Jitsu Tournament in Guam set for Oct. 26.

COACHES

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As for their game against South Korea, team manager Mikky Vargas said, “although South Korea came away with a 10-0 victory, the boys put in a strong effort against a tough opponent. Being the team with the highest FIFA ranking in the group, the game against South Korea was clearly one of the most challenging in this tournament, but the team remained

focused till the final whistle.”

She said after their three previous matches, the NMI felt the physical toll, but pushed “through like champs. South Korea’s fast play and quick ball movement meant we had to be especially disciplined in our defensive shape.”

She added, “The boys worked hard to stay organized and tried to keep up with the many chances Korea was creating through their off-ball movement. It was mentally and physically demanding, but they stuck with it. Despite

spending more time without possession, they worked hard to contest high balls and stay engaged throughout the entire 90 minutes.

“The coaches are incredibly proud of how far the boys have come, both in their individual skill and, as demonstrated in this game, in their ability to work effectively as a team,” said Vargas.

She then said, “Thank you all for the incredible support. It’s been felt by the boys throughout this tournament...”

AGAPE

From page 16

Second place was ACS’ Raffy Cai at 19:08, and third was MHS’ Takeru Jim with 19:15.

In the girls’ individual standings, Addalee Taflinger was the fastest on the course for the second straight qualifier with a time of 23:34.

ACS’ Sablina Shen was second at 24:32 and third was teammate Lucy Hong at 26 minutes flat.

ACS administrator Kok H.

Pang said of the team’s performance in the season so far, “I’m thrilled to see our runners continuously pushing themselves to new heights, even after qualifying for the championship and securing their spots on the NMI XC team for the Asia Pacific Invitational (API) in Chiba, Tokyo, Japan, from Oct. 19 to 24, 2024.”

He added, “I’m also aware that runners from other schools are managing injuries and focusing on recovery. The final race on Oct. 12 for this year’s All-Schools XC re-

mains the one to watch, as all the top runners will be competing to win in their respective age groups and teams in this highly anticipated event.”

The last qualifier is the ISA Invitational with the location to be determined on Oct. 5, and the championship is set for Oct. 12 at the Saipan Country Club at Saipan Vegas.

Results of the middle school/elementary school divisions and the open men’s and women’s Gecko 5000 Fun Run will be published in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

Tribune Sports Scores											
MLB Standings					NFL Standings						
American League					American Conference						
East Division					East						
	W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-New York	94	68	.580	—	Buffalo	3	1	0	.750	122	83
y-Baltimore	91	71	.562	3	N.Y. Jets	2	2	0	.500	76	62
Boston	81	81	.500	13	Miami	1	2	0	.333	33	72
Tampa Bay	80	82	.494	14	New England	1	3	0	.250	52	87
Toronto	74	88	.457	20	South						
Central Division					Houston	3	1	0	.750	79	94
x-Cleveland	92	69	.571	—	Indianapolis	2	2	0	.500	85	85
y-Detroit	86	76	.531	6½	Tennessee	0	3	0	.000	48	78
y-Kansas City	86	76	.531	6½	Jacksonville	0	4	0	.000	60	109
Minnesota	82	80	.506	10½	North						
Chicago	41	121	.253	51½	Pittsburgh	3	1	0	.750	75	53
West Division					Baltimore	2	2	0	.500	106	88
x-Houston	88	73	.547	—	Cincinnati	1	3	0	.250	102	104
Seattle	85	77	.525	3½	Cleveland	1	3	0	.250	66	87
Texas	78	84	.481	10½	West						
Oakland	69	93	.426	19½	Kansas City	4	0	0	1.000	92	72
Los Angeles	63	99	.389	25½	Denver	2	2	0	.500	62	55
National League					L.A. Chargers	2	2	0	.500	68	50
East Division					Las Vegas	2	2	0	.500	78	97
x-Philadelphia	95	67	.586	—	National Conference						
Atlanta	88	72	.550	6	East						
New York	88	72	.550	6	Washington	3	1	0	.750	121	102
Washington	71	91	.438	24	Dallas	2	2	0	.500	97	104
Miami	62	100	.383	33	Philadelphia	2	2	0	.500	86	96
Central Division					N.Y. Giants	1	3	0	.250	60	84
x-Milwaukee	93	69	.574	—	South						
Chicago	83	79	.512	10	Tampa Bay	3	1	0	.750	97	78
St. Louis	83	79	.512	10	Atlanta	2	2	0	.500	75	85
Cincinnati	77	85	.475	16	New Orleans	2	2	0	.500	127	70
Pittsburgh	76	86	.469	17	Carolina	1	3	0	.250	73	129
West Division					North						
x-Los Angeles	98	64	.605	—	Minnesota	4	0	0	1.000	116	59
y-San Diego	93	69	.574	5	Detroit	2	1	0	.667	62	53
Arizona	89	73	.549	9	Chicago	2	2	0	.500	77	75
San Francisco	80	82	.494	18	Green Bay	2	2	0	.500	104	89
Colorado	61	101	.377	37	West						
x-clinched division					Seattle	3	0	0	1.000	73	43
y-clinched wild card					San Francisco	2	2	0	.500	103	82
					Arizona	1	3	0	.250	96	106
					L.A. Rams	1	3	0	.250	75	115

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

'Pirate' pummels 'Pikaboo' for light heavyweight gold

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

A gold medal washed ashore for merchant marine Mahon "Pirate" Gandy after an upset submission over Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez in the light heavyweight division of Trench Tech Promotions' "Mats on Fire" submission grappling tournament last Saturday at the Garapan Central Park Roundhouse.

The penultimate match of the event in the adults no-gi saw a smaller pool of martial practitioners, with Gandy finding himself face-to-face with long-time fighter Alvarez in the finals. Meanwhile, bronze went to Noah Quitugua.

In the finals, Gandy's taller frame loomed over Alvarez as they both scrambled for position and the advantage. Alvarez didn't let that intimidate him though after many years



LEIGH GASES

Light heavyweight division gold medalist, Mahon "Pirate" Gandy, center, second place Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez, left, and third place Noah Quitugua pose on the stadium during the Trench Tech Promotions' "Mats on Fire" submission grappling tournament last Saturday at the Garapan Central Park Roundhouse.

in the MMA scene and got down to it from the get-go. Alvarez was tallying points left and right with better take-downs and sweeps of Gandy. But throughout, both fighters scrambled as they were on the lookout for the perfect position and opportunity for a submission.

The five minutes was almost spent as Alvarez rode the waves with an advantage via points, but he couldn't take it all the way home after Gandy landed a clutch Amer-

icana or keylock submission with just about 30 seconds left in the match.

In an interview after, the 39-year-old Gandy said he was surprised with his win over Alvarez.

"I was surprised because I was getting my butt kicked really badly. I kind of got lucky and found that little Americana in there. It worked out really good otherwise I would've been toast," he said. "I was so tired like within the first minute... I guess I just got a second wind

and just stuck through it. I just pushed one more time and it worked out," said the Washington state native.

On why he wanted to join this competition, he said, "I got here three months ago and I always go to Trench Tech to train and the competition was coming up. I thought I was going to be gone by then, but I ended up staying a lot longer, and [Justis] Cuki [Alvarez] told me to join and that it's a fundraiser for the kids."

As for the event, he said,

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Coaches proud of how far U20 team has come



AFC

NMI U20 Men's National Soccer Team keeper Mark Chavez collides with a South Korea attacker as he defends the goal during their game in the Asian Football Confederation U20 Asian Cup 2025 Qualifiers in Sulmiya, Kuwait.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

After being put in one of the toughest groups in the Asian Football Confederation U20 Asian Cup 2025 Qualifiers, the NMI U20 Men's National Soccer Team put it all out on the pitch, played their hearts out, and made their coaches proud with how far they've come.

They dropped all four matches, with the fourth and final loss against Lebanon, 0-8, last Saturday. Last Thursday, the NMI team succumbed to powerhouse South Korea, 0-10.

To begin their campaign, they went up against host Kuwait and lost, 0-6, last Sep. 22, and then were also blanked by the United Arab Emirates, 0-13.

In their game against

Lebanon, the NMI's defense was no match to the speedy Lebanese. Ali Fakieh opened the game up in the 15th, then quickly made it 0-2 just two minutes later. Hassan Nasser put them up, 3-0 before the half-hour mark, then Fakieh found the back of the net again for his hat-trick in the 35th.

The Lebanese kept the islanders on their toes throughout and kept them at bay. The first half came and went, with the NMI still unable to make big pushes toward Lebanon's territory. Then, Karim Kassem made it 5-0 in the 76th, followed by a goal by Kassem Watfa in the 80th.

Just two minutes later, Anis Nehme found their seventh goal, while Nasser scored their eighth and final goal in two minutes added time.

See COACHES on Page 15



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Agape Christian School's boys high school cross country team poses for a group photo before the third qualifier of the PSS/NMA All Schools Cross Country 2023-2024-the Gecko 5000 at Banzai Cliff last Saturday morning.

Agape fires through HS division of Gecko 5000

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Agape Christian School Torchbearers fired through the high school division course as they swept the third qualifier of the PSS/NMA All Schools Cross Country 2024-2025 at the Banzai Cliff last Saturday morning.

Dubbed the Gecko 5000, an open/fun run was also concurrently held—with results of that to be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

In the high school division, the Torchbearers burned through the 3-mile course hotter than the morning sun that tried its best



to peak out over the clouds.

The boys racked up 19 points for first place, while second was Marianas High School Dolphins at 29. Third went to Saipan International School Geckos with 32 points.

In the girls division, the girls collected 21 points for



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Agape Christian School's girls high school cross country team poses for a group photo before the third qualifier of the PSS/NMA All Schools Cross Country 2023-2024-the Gecko 5000 at Banzai Cliff last Saturday morning.

first place. Second were the Lady Geckos at 25 points, with the Lady Dolphins in third at 43 points. Fourth was Saipan Southern High School with 56 points.

Repeat winner in the boys division, SIS' Nash Santos laid waste to everyone once again as he ran into first place for the third straight time.

He clocked in at 18:49.

See AGAPE on Page 15



AFC

NMI U20 Men's National Soccer Team player Ariel Narvaez Jr., right, in action during their game against the United Arab Emirates in the Asian Football Confederation U20 Asian Cup 2025 Qualifiers in Sulmiya, Kuwait.